

HISTORY OF THE CROSSROADS



125th Anniversary
Schererville, Indiana
1866 - 1991

SCHERERVILLE'S BANK

Opened June 20, 1989

Ground was broken for the Schererville Office of Bank of Highland on March 26, 1988. The bank opened for business 14 months later, on June 20, 1989. The building totaled over 20,000 square feet with three floors plus a lower level.

Expanded in 1993

In 1993, the Bank expanded its Schererville operation by purchasing a 7,500 square foot building in the nearby Lincoln Ridge Plaza. This facility will house the Bank's accounting department and make Bank of Highland one of Schererville's larger employers!

Full-Service

Our office is full-service...meaning virtually almost any financial need can be met here...from checking, saving and investing to borrowing. We also offer the convenience of safe deposit boxes and the ability to pay utility bills, including Schererville Water.



SCHERERVILLE OFFICE - BANK OF HIGHLAND
450 W. Lincoln Highway - 322-9500

A D V A N T A G E S

- **Longer Hours** - Make it easier for you to do your banking.

- **Better Service** - Our goal is customer satisfaction. We do more to keep you happy like offering longer hours, friendly employees and by doing extras like taking utility payments which is not only convenient for you but less expensive than mail!

SCHERERVILLE OFFICE HOURS

	Lobby	Drive-up
M-Th	9-5	7-7
F	9-7	7-8
Sat	9-1	7-5

- **Locally Owned & Operated** - We have made a significant investment in Schererville and want to be an integral part of the community.

- **Competitive Pricing** - You won't pay more to enjoy a higher level of service when you bank at Bank of Highland. In fact, you'll probably be financially better off by banking with us. Better service at no additional charge.

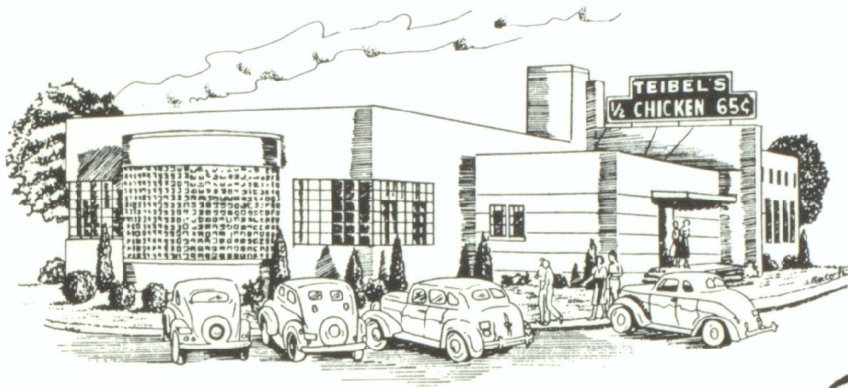
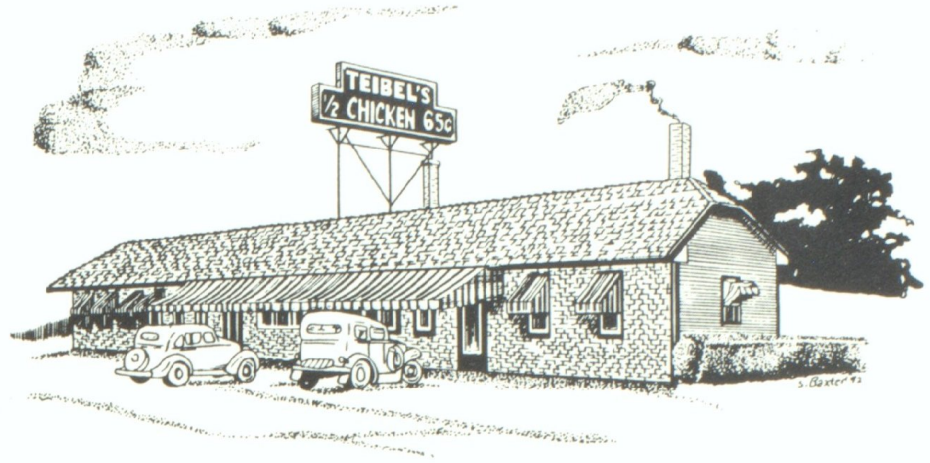
322-9500



Bank of Highland

MEMBER FDIC

Teibel's
a
three generation
Commitment to Excellence



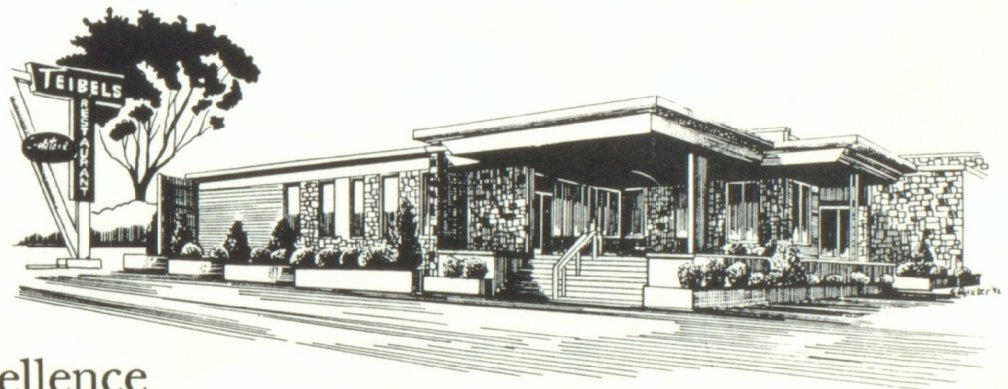
*Times Change and
Schererville has changed.
For 64 years, there has been
one constant...*

Teibel's Commitment

Our commitment to
our customers

Our commitment to
our community

Our commitment to excellence
for three generations



Robert and Stephen Teibel

Teibel's

The Ideal Family Restaurant • U.S. 30 & 41 • Schererville, In • (219) 865-2000

Some Words About This Text

The original History of Schererville was completed in 1966 for the Centennial Celebration. A number of individuals put in a lot of time and effort to make that book a reality. They started from scratch and had to do much research to present a view of the first 100 years. We, the residents of Schererville, should be thankful to those individuals.

As Vice-President of the Schererville Historical Society, I was asked to work on updating the history of Schererville. Let me tell you a little of how this was done, etc.

Information sheets were mailed to all known churches, organizations, etc. in Schererville in 1991. Some did not reply. Follow-up contacts were made. A couple of us made personal phone calls to encourage cooperation. More, but not total, cooperation was achieved.

A few of the members of the Historical Society read the old book and updated and/or corrected information.

I took the above mentioned work and started the task of redoing the history of Schererville. I have updated the past history to be as accurate as possible. New information on the first 100 years has been added and some corrections have been made. Some

people may think that names and considerable detail are not important. I disagree and have preserved the research that the original writers had done. I have changed only the obviously needed items.

Old-timers may notice the interspersed of Dyer and St. John history in this edition. I used the Dyer and St. John History Books to provide, what I believe to be, interesting information about the early, related development of the two towns.

Finally, I have added the information that the Historical Society has compiled about the last 25 years. The pictures that are new to this edition are, for the most part, due to the dedicated efforts of Art Schweitzer. Art is often seen walking the streets of town and, at times, on the top of a building to take pictures to capture the present for the future. He has procured many old pictures as well. The past, present and future should be grateful to Art Schweitzer.

Hopefully you will find the history of Schererville interesting and enlightening. We are all the future history of Schererville.

Rich Jonas





THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

May 28, 1991

Citizens of the Town of Schererville
Schererville, Indiana

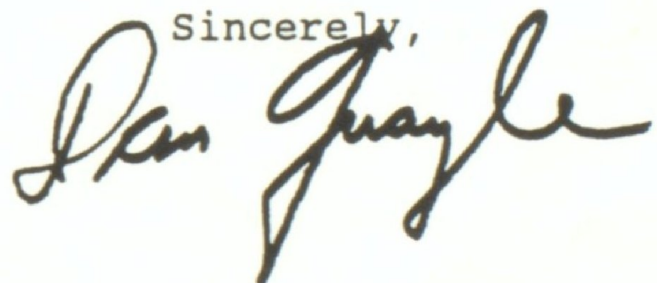
Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes and congratulations as you mark the 125th anniversary of the Town of Schererville.

This celebration of your town is a fitting tribute to freedom, family, and the memory of Nicholas Scherer, the man for whom this town is named. Like the generations that followed in his footsteps, he understood the full potential of this great land and took advantage of every opportunity offered to him by America.

Indeed, your spirit of hard work and kindness echoes that of your ancestors who made this region their home over one hundred and twenty-five years ago. You may all justly rejoice in the rich traditions and achievements of your town.

As fellow Hoosiers, Marilyn and I wish to send our best wishes for a memorable and rewarding year of celebration. One hundred and twenty-five years of growth and success are an inspiring accomplishment, but I am certain that the best years for Schererville lie in the future.

Sincerely,




THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 20, 1966

It was with much pleasure that I learned that this year marks the centennial of the founding of Schererville, Indiana.

On this significant milestone in the productive life of your Town, I am happy to extend to all the citizens of Schererville my heartiest congratulations and greetings.

I commend you on your past achievements and I hope that the years ahead will bring you continued prosperity and progress.

History Of Our Crossroads



Joliet Street east of tracks in 1932. The gas station was located where the current Schererville Florist Shop is in 1991.

The trails coming up from the South, inward from the East and leading out to the West, were crossed and joined by other trails leading around the foot of Lake Michigan. Over them passed innumerable hosts of Red Men long before the first White Men made their appearance in the Calumet area. Over them traversed many pioneers including Father Marquette, trapper, hunter, trader, missionary and pioneer.

These Indian trails were soon to become the wagon roads, the post roads, railroads and now motor roads. It was here that the Indian trails converged and diverged, and it is here that the railroads crossed and the modern highways, East and West and North to South now cross. It is the "Crossroads of the Nation."

It was from here that the French explorer, Father Marquette, in 1675, began his journey up the east

side of Lake Michigan. From the earliest recorded history of the region, this land at the southern tip of Lake Michigan has been known as the "crossroads". It was crisscrossed by countless Indian trails, the most noted of these being the old Sauk Trail. The five Indian tribes using the Sauk trail joined their allies, the British, in the War of 1812, and for their assistance were given an annuity in goods to be picked up each year. Yearly they made their journey from the area around Rock Island to Malden down the river from Detroit.

When Indiana became a state in 1816, the Indiana Territory opened for settling. The "Calumet" (Michigan City to Hammond) was to remain unsettled until it became known as "Indiana's Last Frontier". The great Kansan Marsh proved an unsurmountable barrier for settlement from the South, and the vast "Black Swamp" on Northwestern Ohio blocked the only direct route from the East.

The year 1832 saw the purchase of this



northwestern part of Indiana from the Indians. It wasn't for two more years that government surveyors arrived to survey the area into sections and townships.

In 1833 with the completion of the Dearborn-Detroit trail near Michigan City, the area became available to settlers. They had two choices of travel from Michigan City, the "old post road" (North Fork) and the South Fork, which followed the Sauk trail.

The Sauk trail was already worn to a deep rut across the lonesome prairie by the Sauk, Pottawattomie and Fox Indians who had marched to their new homes in the West not too many years before. The few Indians left were hesitant to leave their hallowed grounds, but by the late 1840's they too had gone West. The Indians were seen only on occasion after that when they would return to visit their dead. The last recorded visit by Indians was when Chief Pokagon of the Pottawatomie Tribe returned in 1873 to visit his tribe's burial grounds near Lake Station.

In September of 1978, ancient remains of animals were discovered at three different spots on the peat bog where Watson and Koufos Developers were digging a seven-acre lake at the Sherwood Lake Apartment complex. Elk bones were dated by scientists to be 9,128 years old. Millions of tiny shells, a turtle's skull and bones of other animals were also unearthed by workers digging the lake at the bog. The remnants began about seven feet below the surface. The age determination was made at the University of Texas with the carbon-dating procedure.

Foot Path To Wagon Roads

The White Men, some for adventure and others for economic, religious or political reasons, followed the trail to seek a new life. Once they had arrived in Michigan City, these early pioneers used any means possible to finish their journey down the Sauk Trail, known by then as the "Main Road" or road to Joliet. The road was marked by crosses and evidences of hardships suffered by those who had gone before. Lake County, Indiana (Lake Court House), was for many, a severe disappointment. The realization that this wild land, so much of it wet and swampy, was what they had struggled so hard to reach, and they thought of it as unbearable.

There were a few, who were hopeful and pushed a little further West of the area of St. John Township, then known as "Prairie West", to establish their homesites. It was to this land, matted with thick, green spongy grass and almost surrounded by boggy marshes, where the fallen rotted trees and matted leaves had dammed the swamps into bodies of water resembling lakes, that John Hack brought his family to live. He was the first German Catholic that was to settle so heavily in the area of St. John Township. Why this area seemed to attract so many settlers from Germany is speculation. However, Hack and most of those who followed were farmers and did

not own any land in Germany. They lived frugally and were able to save what little they earned in Germany. America offered opportunity to own their own land and homes. Courageous men and women came to this area, word spread back to the fatherland and more came. In 1837, as one of the earliest settlers in the area, John Hack was determined to make this area his home. John and his wife had eleven children. One of their daughters, Catherine, married John Sebastian. She passed away in 1860. St. John Township history is intertwined with marriages and movements and similarities. Both Mr. Hack, for whom St. John is named, and Mr. Scherer, for whom Schererville was named, provided the land on which the first churches were built. Mr. Nicholas Scherer's brother settled in St. John in 1846. One of his children, Mary, was born on ship while crossing the Atlantic. Jacob, his wife and children settled immediately in St. John. He died a year or two later. Both Scherer homes, Jacob's and Nicholas's still stand today. The Nicholas Scherer house is at 33 Wilhelm Street and Jacob's is at 9520 Joliet Street in St. John.

Another group of settlers followed shortly and one of them, Mr. John Reeder, located in the area, now Schererville. Two grown sons and some daughters made the journey with him and his wife. Reeder was afflicted with ague and malaria fever, caused by the swamps and was unable to last through the winter. His wife died in the spring.

The wagons straggled in, a few a year, but most of the settlers, after attempting to establish a homestead, gave up and moved on West. The only ones who did stay were so beggarly poor that they could not find a way out, or were of such great determination that they would not give up. The birds and insects would swoop down on the grain fields and it would be a fight to the death to raise enough food to eat.

The tales of men who had frozen along the road back East when they were attempting to secure food for their families in the winters, were numerous. Illnesses that would be handled easily today, proved fatal to the settlers. The epidemics of diphtheria and scarlet fever nearly wiped out whole families

Wagon Roads To Railroads

There were many families struggling for survival in the area of Schererville, when A.N. Hart, a wizard in land speculation, came and first saw the immense Cady Marsh. He contemplated the possibility of draining the land even though he knew that Mr. Paxton, a state surveyor, had recently deemed it unfit and impossible to drain. Mr. Hart found it a challenging idea and by the time he purchased his tract of despised swamp land, he was confident he could do the job.

The main artery of this fantastic drainage system was Hart's ditch, which carried the water to Plum Creek near Dyer, and then into the Little Calumet River. He engaged in the business of building wagon roads and along the side of each, he would run his

trademark, a fine drainage ditch.

When Mr. Hart started his project, it was for the purpose of land speculation, but the following years changed his entire life and the future of the whole area. He grew to love digging ditches and he had a one-horse buggy in which he would ride throughout his land, with his ever-handly hoe. If he saw an obstruction he would stop and clean it out.

He soon found that he had thousands of acres of rich alluvial soil whose depth of fertility could never be impoverished. This fact has been attested to by the fact that some of the most productive truck farms in the area are still located on this land that A.N. Hart reclaimed from the swamp. At the Hartsdale farm, he set up hay presses, went into the pressed hay business and shipped his hay from Schererville after the arrival of the railroad in 1865.

The tracks of the Chicago Great Eastern Ohio

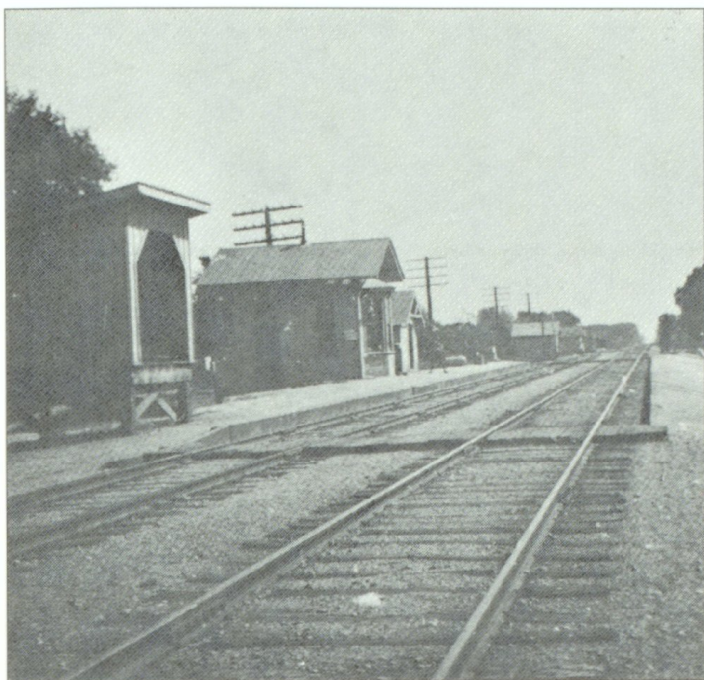


It was known as Hartsdale—across from the current Midwest Pipe Coating business.

Railroads To Stone Roads

The first order of business in the new town, which in 1866 was composed of about 25 families, most of whom were German Catholics, was a new school. The school was a frame building, known as District Number One School. It was erected in 1866 from funds provided by the Township Trustee. Adreon Cook was the director. In the same year the post office was approved and Matthias Meyer became the first postmaster.

It was in 1870 that John Thiel came from his job with Studebaker buggy works in Chicago and bought the small buggy works belonging to Adam Spanier in Schererville. He opened a blacksmith shop, which in



*Pennsylvania depot and milk station
just east of current police station*

Panhandle Railroad (changed later to the Pennsylvania Railroad and again to Conrail) were laid across the main road (now Joliet Street) at the point where the town of Schererville celebrated its centennial, commemorating the town that Nicholas Scherer envisioned at the point of this early "crossroads" in 1866.

Nicholas Scherer was a determined and industrious man who sometimes gambled on an idea that his neighbors thought was sheer folly. Scherer was a determined planner, displaying the sturdy German industriousness that had enabled those who had persevered in this land of Schererville. Having conquered the extreme hardships of the land that they had cursed when they arrived, the pioneers and Nichols Scherer crossed paths and began to form a community.



*Fath Feed Store was located behind the Turner Building
downtown Schererville*



On left: Turner Building (burned down Christmas of 1928), YMCA (also burned down Christmas of 1928), 1st Fire Shanty, House by the tracks still standing and Gard's General Store. On right: Schulte Meat Market (torn down), Corts Building (stands at 11 E. Joliet) and Miller's Tap (now Earl's Tap)

those days was a great asset to any town. It was located across from the current post office building. Because of the shop, the entire community began to grow and prosper. People would come from the entire area and, while waiting, would patronize the other business establishments. Across the street was Michael Grimmer's dairy. He also owned the general store which later became Gard's General Store. It was still in operation at the time of the Centennial. The building was then moved and turned to face Junction Street and today is the Towne Furniture Store. Next to the general store was Schubert's saloon which was later Meyer's saloon and dance hall. On the west side of the railroad tracks was a grain elevator. John Austgen also had a saloon located at 11 E. Joliet and his brother ran a grocery store across the street. Henry Lustig operated a cigar factory and a number of the businessmen banded together to erect an ice-house. The ice-house was situated at the back side of the existing police station along the railroad tracks. Bernard Schulte, who ran a meat market on the southeast corner of Joliet and Mary Streets, was also the township trustee.

Across from the Sherwood Club is a big hill. Almost invisible to the passing motorist is the old George Hartley farm. Originally the farm had been owned by Leo P. Knoezer. Old-time residents will recognize the name of Knoezer Cadillac of Hammond, Indiana. Knoezer Cadillac was, at one

time, the oldest Cadillac dealership in the country. Mr. Knoezer lived in Schererville until he sold the property to Hartley.

Just to the east of the driveway going up to the old



A 1910 picture of Joliet Street looking in a west direction from approximately where current Post Office is located. Note hump just past man in street. That is the railroad tracks.



Knoezer farm lived Jacob Scholl who was a carpenter. Mr. Scholl's son became famous nationally as Dr. Scholl. His foot pads, bunion pads and other foot care items are sold around the United States.

The Catholic church, St. Michael's, was built in 1873 with the first pastor Rev. King coming two years later. He was followed by Rev. Berg. The cemetery was consecrated in 1895 on land donated to the church by Nicholas Scherer. In 1894 the Township built a new brick school and sold the old one to St. Michael's. It became the first parochial school.

Under Michael Grimmer, the Township Trustee, the town had its first stone road. The road was paved in 1911. It should be pointed out that paving at that time meant putting down stone and covering it with tar and certainly not what we think of as paving today.

Paved Roads To Crossroads

The point which many townsmen now consider the "crossroads" of Schererville lies at the junction of U.S. Routes 30 and 41. Route 30, the old Lincoln Highway, where it runs through the center of the old business district is Joliet Street. It is part of the old main road which followed the Indian trails from Detroit to Joliet. In 1913 the first Lincoln Highway Association was formed to promote a highway across the United States from coast-to-coast and offer very high quality construction. By 1916 the Federal Road Aid Act gave thrust to this national road system that was soon to be built. Lincoln Highway began in New York City at Times Square and went through New Jersey and joined with what today is U.S. 30 and continued through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming and on to San Francisco. The very last stretches of the highway were not paved until the late 1930's. The Lincoln Highway in our area was paved, under the old

terminology of the word, in 1911. The intersection of Routes 30 & 41 was paved in 1934.

In 1926, the battles that ensued over the upgrading of Joliet Street (Old Lincoln Highway) really rocked the town. The state was coming to resurface Joliet Street. At that time the road was about 4 feet below its present level in the town area. At the railroad tracks, traffic had to slow down to cross the high hump. The upgrading of Joliet Street raised the blood pressure of many residents along Joliet Street because many would have to move homes, fill their land and build sidewalks. For the next 2 or 3 years the town minutes are full of disagreements and lawsuits about this problem. The work, however, was finally completed and the results of the four foot difference is still very easily seen along parts of Joliet Street. One only needs to pay attention while driving down Joliet Street to its north side. Also, note the railroad tracks in one of



Teibel's in the late 30's.



Routes 30 and 41 in the late 40's.

this section's pictures.

Route 41 was widened in 1935 which relieved the traffic problem at the junction of 30 and 41. In 1929, the Teibel family built their restaurant. It has been remodeled several times since then. This crossroads intersection also had Sauzer's Waffle Shop on the corner opposite Teibel's. Sauzer's stood until it was torn down on November 20, 1990. Wal-Mart and numerous other stores now occupy that general location and several additional acres of land. In 1966, the northwest corner was occupied by Big Top Super Market and Shopping Center. This is now one of the locations of Strack & Van Til's Super Market and various other businesses. In the rear of Strack's is Sauzer's Kiddieland which is a children's amusement park with many rides. It is also used as a picnic site for many businesses of Northwest Indiana.

In 1962, the Business Men's Association was

formed. It then developed into the Schererville Chamber of Commerce. Michael Troxell is the current president during this 125th year of



Another view of a past Schererville landmark, Sauzer's Waffle Shop — Note that the address on this card photo says Dyer. This is because of the phone exchange in that time.

Schererville's existence.

In December of 1953, the master plan for the sewerage system and disposal plant was acted upon. Clyde Williams & Associates of South Bend was hired to make the drawings. The Town Board at that time was composed of S. Carahoff, S. Teibel, A. Schreiber



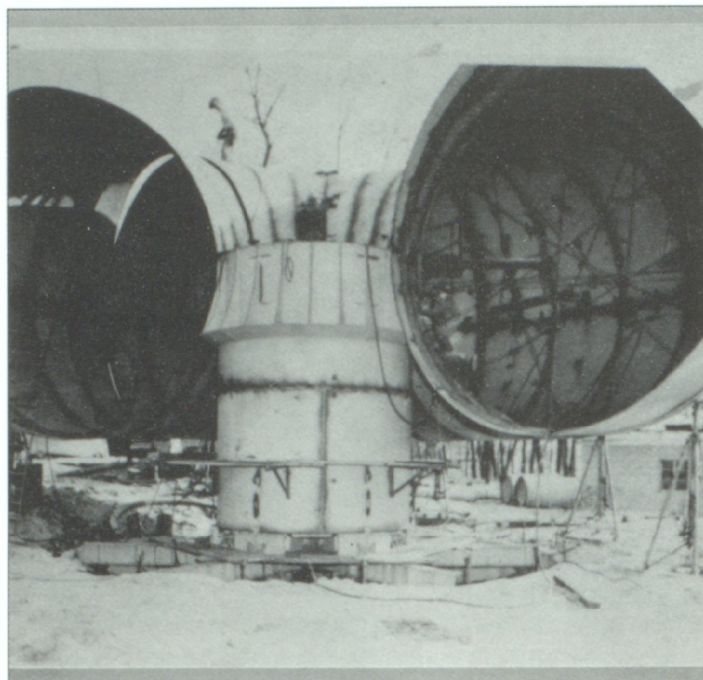
Schererville's first well was at site of old Police & Fire Station at the tracks on Joliet Street

and Clerk-Treasurer, Joe Zimmer.

The present site of the sewage disposal plant was

purchased in 1957, but the plant was not started until 1964 by the Gaskill & Walton Construction Co. of Crete, Illinois. The work was completed in 1965 and the plant went into operation. Loitz Bros. Construction Co. of Grant Park, Illinois did the work of laying the sewer lines. Bob Buchler was named as first superintendent of the Sewer System. The entire cost of this initial sewer project was \$1,236,571.40.

Schererville's Water Works became operative in 1920. In 1959, the Acquatore (Water Tower) was started in Schererville. It was the first of its kind in the world. Reign Ulm, a Schererville resident and an engineer at Graver Tank, was in charge of the project.



Building of the water tanks which are at Anna Street and Wilhelm Street.

Histories of the various town departments, Fire, Police, School, etc. are carried in individual articles. Histories of many of the town's pioneer families are also published herein. These all have most interesting facts which throw light on Schererville's growth.

One additional story is interesting. Both St. John and Schererville were incorporated in the year 1911. Supposedly, according to Frank Miller of St. John, his father, John, told him a story about the incorporation efforts of St. John. It was said that a resident of Schererville was in the process of incorporating Schererville at the same time that St. John was pursuing its incorporation. The word got back to St. John that this resident had plans to include all of what is now St. John in his own town. John Miller learned of this intention and a race to the county seat ensued to be the first to file incorporation petitions with the county. Miller was the winner because he used his automobile for transportation while the Schererville resident took a leisurely trip on horseback. Maybe we have to consult Ripley to see if We Believe It Or Not. The two towns became incorporated officially within two months of each other

1911 — Town Board — 1991

The Civil Town of Schererville was incorporated September 5, 1911 and the following were members of the incorporating committee: John A. Mager, Jacob Scholl, Sarinis Swets, Peter A. Grimmer (clerk) and Frank Berwanger (treasurer). All were approved as Town Board members in the election on November 7, 1911.

1912, January 1

New Board Members were John Mager, S.P. Swets, Joe Risch, P.A. Grimmer, clerk; Frank Berwanger, treasurer.

1913, November 5

William J. Govert was elected to the office of the Town Clerk.

1920, June 5

William Hilbrich was President of the Town Board - other members were Frank Scholl and John Austgen.

1923 — Town Board Members were William Hilbrich, President, William Bohney, John Thiel and William Govert, Clerk.

1924, January 5

William Bohney elected President of the Board and Thad Fancher elected Town Attorney.

1926, July 3

The Town Board was made up of William Bohney, Pres., William Govert, Clerk, William Hilbrich and John Thiel. Thiel then resigned and was replaced by Olline Thiel.

1927, March 4

Wm. Hilbrich resigned and Matt Kuhn was appointed to take his place.

1929, August 29

Wm. Bohney, Matt Kuhn and C.J. Schafer were the Town Board. A.P. Thiel had resigned on October 1, 1928, but the Board did not accept his resignation until March 12, 1929. Clarence J. Schafer was appointed to replace him.

1938, October

William J. Govert was shot to death by a disgruntled worker. His wife, Mrs. Susan Govert finished out the term of her husband.

1940 — Town Board Members were: Clarence Schafer, William Bohney, Samuel Corts and Alfred H. Govert, Clerk-Treasurer.

1943 — Samuel Corts died and Mrs. Corts was appointed to serve out his term.

1944, January 1

John Scheidt, Michael Seberger, Simeon T. Carahoff and Joseph E. Zimmer, Clerk-Treasurer now made up the Board. Edward Belshaw was the new town attorney.

1945, May

Scheidt resigned and Martin Teibel was appointed.

1947 — Board Members through election were

Simeon Carahoff, Martin Teibel and Aloys Schreiber with Joe Zimmer as Clerk-Treasurer.

1950, December 23

Martin Teibel resigned and was replaced by Stephen Teibel.

1951 — Same Board Members

1955 — Town Election - Simeon Carahoff, Aloys Schreiber, Charles Eager, Robert Teegarden, Trustees with Joe Zimmer as Clerk-Treasurer.

1959, September

Mrs. Faye Carahoff was appointed to fill the unexpired term of her husband Simeon who died in August.

1960, January 1

Board Members were Robert Teegarden, Ralph C. McColly, James Gauthier and John Seman with Joe Zimmer as Clerk-Treasurer.

1964, January 1

Members were Teegarden, John J. Dressen, Jr. John Seman and McColly with Zimmer as Clerk-Treasurer.

1964, March

Michael A. Kuhn was appointed to serve out the term of John Seman, deceased.

1964 — Elliot Belshaw and James K. Whitaker assumed to the role as town Attorney upon the death of Ed Belshaw.

1966 — Centennial Year Board Members were Robert Teegarden, Michael Kuhn, John Dressen Jr. and Ralph McColly with Joe Zimmer as Clerk-Treasurer.

In the 125th year of Schererville, the board members were Larry Tucker, Vic Banter, Tom Kouros, John Fladeland, D. Wes Shake and the Clerk-Treasurer was Clarence Kuhn.

Other Town Board Members through the years from 1966 until 1991 follow at the end of this section.



Town Board Members 1966 - 1991

1966

Robert M. Teegarden
Ralph C. McColly
John J. Dreesen, Jr.
Michael A. Kuhn

1967

Robert M. Teegarden
Ralph C. McColly - Resigned 6/30/67
John J. Dreesen
Michael A. Kuhn
A. Lawrence Anderson - As of 7/12/67
Clerk-Treasurer - Joseph E. Zimmer

1968

Walter Stephen
Richard Krame
Robert M. Teegarden - Resigned 8/14/68
Michael A. Kuhn
Joseph Kulesa - As of 8/14/68
Clerk-Treasurer - Kay Stuhlmacher

1969

Walter Stephen
Richard Krame
Michael A. Kuhn
Joseph Kulesa
Clerk-Treasurer - Kay Stuhlmacher

1970

Richard Krame
Walter Stephen
Michael A. Kuhn
Joseph Kulesa
Clerk-Treasurer - Kay Stuhlmacher

1971

Richard Krame
Walter Stephen
Joseph Kulesa
Michael A. Kuhn
Clerk-Treasurer - Kay Stuhlmacher

1972

John J. Dreesen
Norbert Fortener
Herman Parker
William Cornish
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1973

John J. Dreesen
Norbert Fortener
Herman Parker
William Cornish - Resigned 10/10/73
Joseph Funderlic - As of 10/10/73
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1974

Herman Parker
Norbert E. Fortener
Joseph Funderlic
John J. Dreesen
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1975

Herman Parker
Norbert E. Fortener
Joseph Funderlic
John J. Dreesen
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1976

Herman Parker
Norbert E. Fortener
James A. Galinsky
Albert W. Yelich
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1977

Norbert E. Fortener
Joseph Funderlic
John J. Dreesen
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1978

Albert W. Yelich - Resigned 1/16/78
Herman Parker
Norbert E. Fortener
James A. Galinsky - Resigned 5/01/78
Richard Krame - As of 2/10/78
Joseph S. Jayjack - As of 6/14/78
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1979

Richard A. Krame
Norbert E. Fortener
Herman Parker
Joseph S. Jayjack
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1980

Walter A. Stephen
Frank J. Sauzer, Jr.
Robert C. Phares
Carrol D. Green
Allie Baker
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1981

Allie Baker
Carrol D. Green
Walter Stephen
Robert C. Phares
Frank J. Sauzer, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1982

Allie Baker
Walter Stephen
C. D. Green
Robert C. Phares
Frank J. Sauzer, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert



1983

Allie Baker
 C. D. Green
 Robert C. Phares
 Paulette Stark
 Joseph Funderlic
 Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1984

Paulette Stark
 Robert C. Phares
 C. D. Green
 Joseph Funderlic
 Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1985

C. D. Green
 Robert C. Phares
 Paulette Stark
 Larry Tucker
 Joseph Funderlic
 Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1986

Paulette Stark
 C. D. Green
 Larry Tucker
 Joseph Funderlic
 Robert Fladeland
 Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1987

C. D. Green
 Joseph Funderlic
 Larry Tucker
 Robert C. Phares
 John Fladeland
 Clerk-Treasurer - Alice A. Siebert

1988

Bob Grisham
 John Fladeland
 Joseph Funderlic
 Larry Tucker
 Vic Banter
 Clerk-Treasurer - Clarence T. Kuhn

1989

Bob Grisham
 John Fladeland
 Joseph Funderlic
 Vic Banter
 Larry Tucker
 Clerk-Treasurer - Clarence T. Kuhn

1990

John Fladeland
 Joseph Funderlic
 Victor Banter
 Larry Tucker
 Bob Grisham - Resigned 12/90
 Clerk-Treasurer - Clarence T. Kuhn

U.S. census reported 483 residents comprising Schererville in the year 1920. The following years show the growth: 1930 - 580; 1940 - 998; 1950 - 1,457; 1960 - 2,875; 1970 - 3,663; 1980 - 13,209; and 1990 - 19,926.

The climate of Schererville, with some effect of Lake Michigan which is 13 miles to the north, shows warm summers and moderately cold winters. The average annual temperature is 50 degrees and the average total rainfall is 35 inches.

Lake County lies in the Northern Moraine and Lake Region of the Midwest. Schererville lies specifically in the Calumet Lacustrine Section with the southern section of the town near the Continental Divide for drainage. The Calumet Lacustrine Section is a sandy area surrounding the southern edge of Lake Michigan, being the site of the former Lake Chicago in glacial times. As the lake retreated, level lake bed areas, sand bars and beach ridges were left. The most ancient of the lake stages existed some twelve to fourteen thousand years ago and is generally called the Glenwood Stage. The stage, which is a beach ridge, stretches into Indiana along U.S. 30 and is, therefore, to be found on the western side of Schererville. The town of Schererville is located in the Calumet watershed and therefore, Turkey Creek and all manmade ditches drain to the north.

By 1990, the population of Schererville constituted 48% of the entire St. John Township. As of 1990, 27% of the town is under 18. For the most part, Schererville is an old town with a young population.

In 1980, the town contained 5058 housing units. In the last ten years, 2,469 building permits were issued. This brings the total housing units to 7,527 including 1,316 units associated with apartments or condominiums. The town's suburban nature is reflected in the fact that the number of persons over 60 living alone is small as compared with the county and the fact that over 30% of the females of Schererville have children under the age of six and that 84% of the persons under 18 live with both parents. The 1980 census showed that 90% of the Schererville residents in the labor force were employed outside the community. The census also showed that 91% of the males over 16 were in the labor force and 57% of the females were in the force.

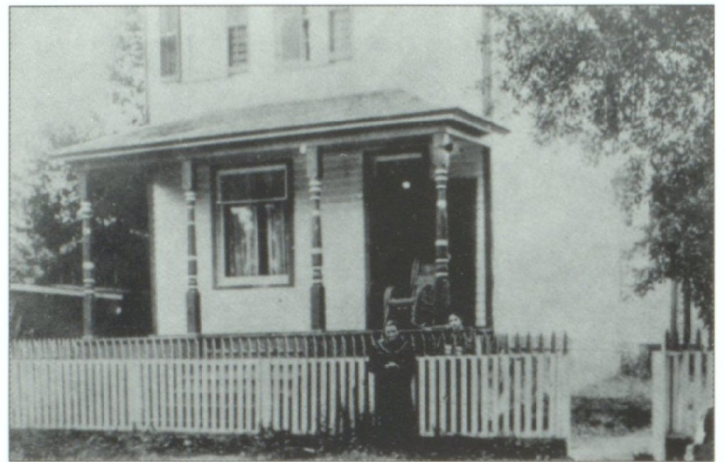




Gard's Store at turn of century



*Cort's building which is next to Earl's Tap on its west side
pictured after turn of the century*



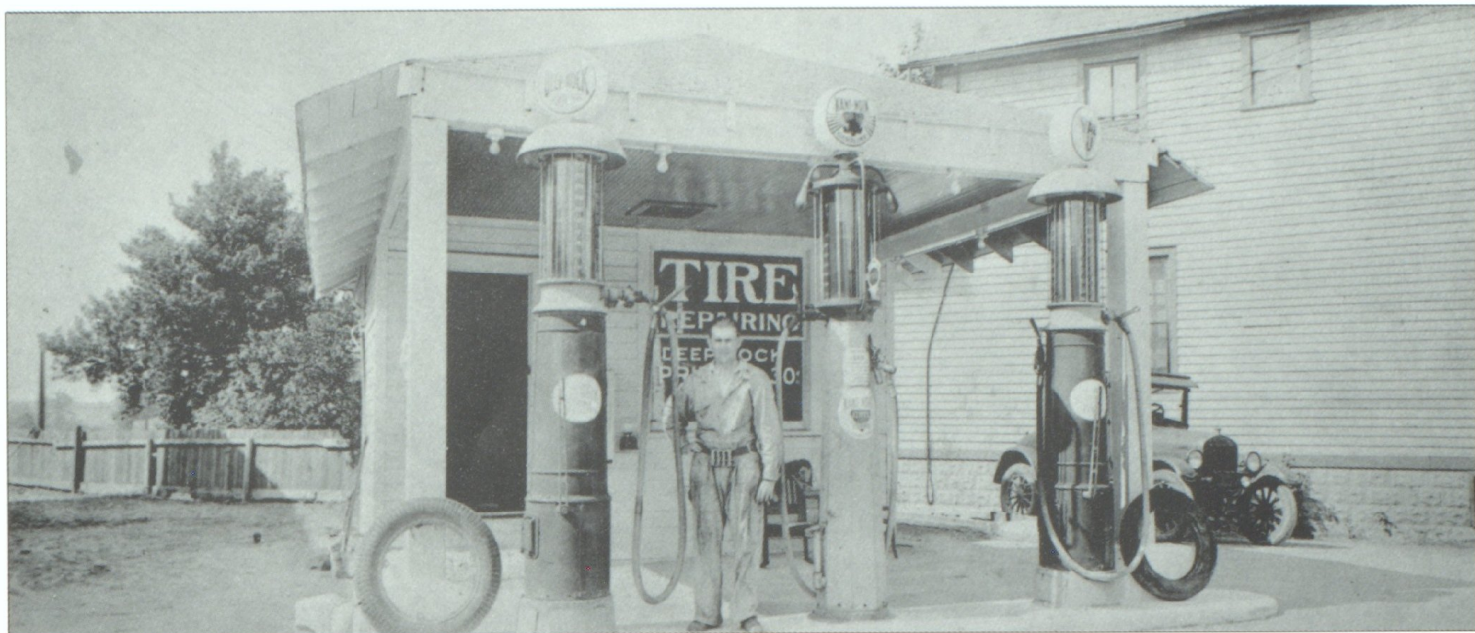
*Above, Typical turn-of-century house. It still stands across from
Earl's Tap next to the railroad tracks.*



*Left, Mason Store in 1958. This is current location of
Schererville Post Office.*

*Below, Opening of May's Discount Store on November 7, 1961.
Currently it is the home of Strack & VanTil's Megamarket.*





Turner's Gas Station at 18 E. Joliet in 1931. Bob Britton is waiting for the next Essex or Maxwell.



Harry Rohrman's gas station in 1964. It was just north of Town & Country Auto Sales on Route 41.



Joe Stephen and Norb Grimmer at Joe's Standard which was located between Taco Belle and White Castle about 50 years ago.



Grimmer's Service Station in the 1940's. It is still there, but now Butch Grimmer has changed the station "somewhat."



Smiling Service Station on S.E. corner of Joliet and Cline in 1927. Left to Right are: Ed Peifer, Aloysius Seberger, Matt Seberger, Herbert Schultz and Bill Redar.

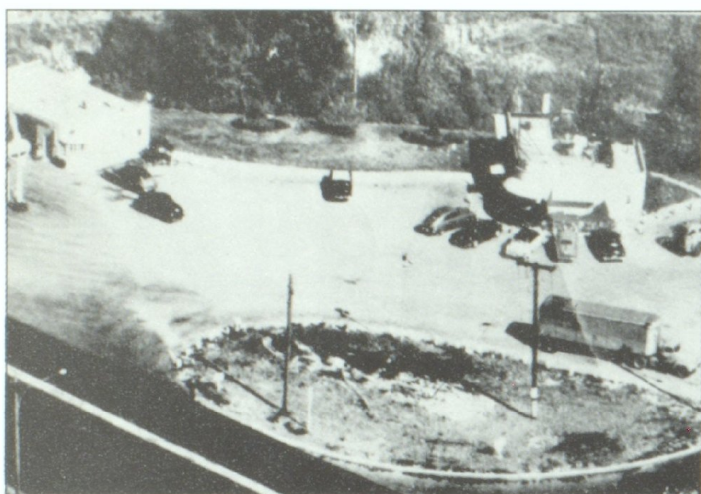




Looking westward down Joliet from the Library in 1991.



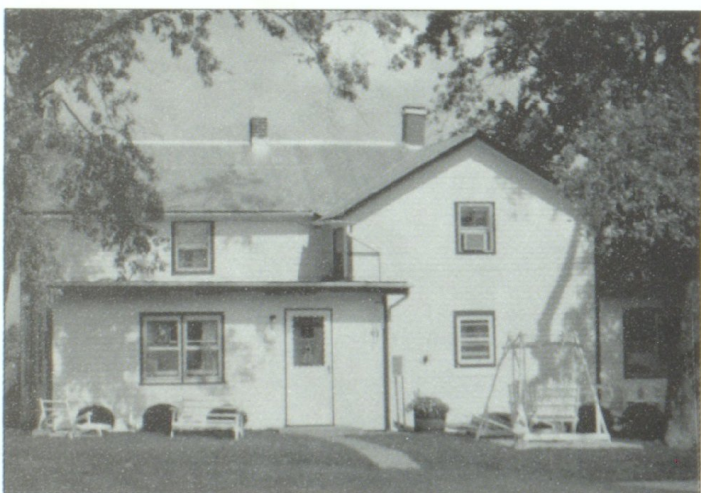
Current post office on Joliet Street in 1991.



Aerial view of Eddie's Standard and Sauzer's Waffle Shop in 1952.



By the water tanks many years ago at the Hartsdale part of town. This is just west of Midwest Pipe Coating Co.



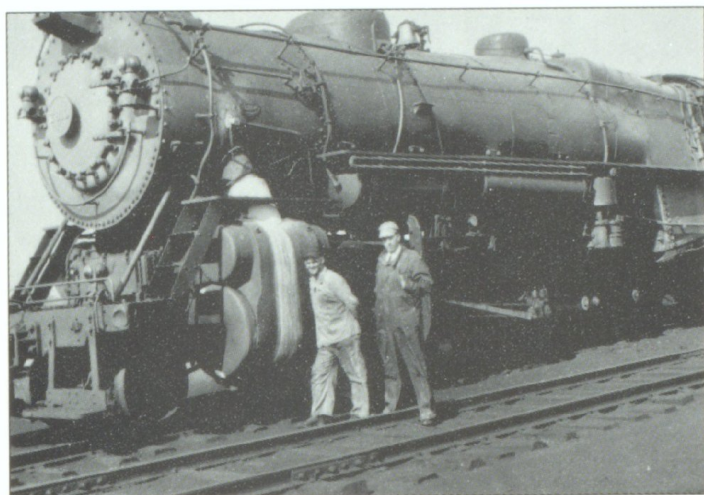
Nicholas Hilbrich built this log cabin in 1847. A wrap-around house was built around the log cabin. Currently it is the residence of Ed and Marie Govert at 8181 Alexander.



Back in 1918 mail arrived by train. Frank Place shown outside station looking north.



Old Schererville Airport which was called the Triangle Airport because of its configuration. It was closed about 30 years ago. It was on Airport Road, just south of the Iron Bridge, whose Route 41 access was closed in October of 1992.



Bob Britton Sr. on the right with one of the typical steam locomotives to pass through Schererville.



Vern and Wilma Schulte at a WPA project east of Mary's Street. This was part of a 1930's project.



Center switching station tower still stands under the Iron Bridge on its west side.



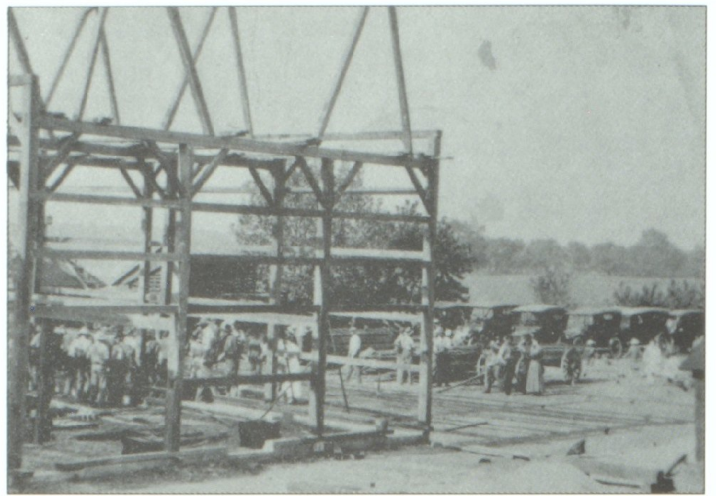
J. Thebault inside the switching tower which is still in use.



John Mager house at southeast corner of Joliet and Anna. Mager built many homes, etc. in Schererville including the current St. Michael's Church. Picture is from 1909.



Originally Miller's Tap, this local watering hole has gone through many owners. Currently it is owned by Earl Hilbrich and is known by everyone as Earl's Tap at 21 E. Joliet St.



Building the Schiesser (now Lankford) barn in the teens.



Teibel ad on July 13, 1933.



On the Schiesser Farm on August 11, 1914.



Used car ad for Seberger Motor Sales which was located where the current Zip Food Store is on Hwy. 330 at Cline. Ad is from April 2, 1936.



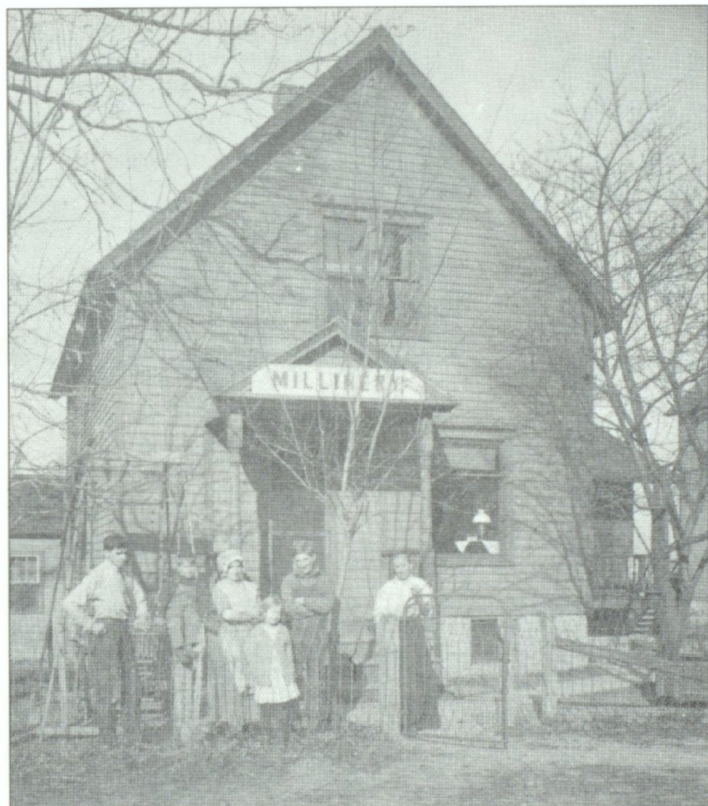
YMCA and Restaurant at 18 E. Joliet — second from left is Fred Henderlong, first Fire Chief. Other men were members of a train crew.



*Ben Schulte and unidentified man at Hartsdale Station
on the east side of Kennedy Avenue.*



*Bernard Schulte in his hot rod on Joliet Street
at Mary Street in the teens.*



*30 W. Joliet on the N.E. corner of Francisca and Joliet.
Currently it is the Grummer house.*



*Early pioneers seated left to right: Frank Homan, Leslie
Robinson, Frank Scholl, Frank Berwanger.
Standing are Matt Scholl and George Scholl.*

ILLIANA MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Harry Molenaar is a pioneer in a number of respects in the Calumet Area. Harry started a Harley-Davidson motorcycle distributorship back in the 1940's. He was not only widely known as the Harley-Davidson man in the area for selling them, but also for racing them. Also, in the 40's he started what was then called the Schererville Speedway. However, it was for motorcycles back then.

Molenaar carved the original half-mile track from a cornfield and a single airplane runway landing strip that was used in World War II as a training site. It's clay and dirt surface was covered with gallons of fresh oil and a race often resulted in a combination of choking dust and muddy oil.

Some stock car racing was started in the 1948 season and, because of public acceptance, a full program of stock car competition began in 1950. At that time racing was held on both a 1/2 mile dirt oval and a smaller 3/8 circuit which used the same "home straightaway". Racing in these early days consisted of motorcycles, a few sprint car events, midgets, and, as mentioned, a full event of stock cars.

Many famous drivers have circled the oval at Illiana including A.J. Foyt, Johnny Parsons and Troy Ruttman. The Winston Cup 1992 Champion, recently killed in an airplane accident, Alan Kluwicki, also raced in his early days at Illiana. In 1962 a young Texan, who was just breaking into the big time, drove his Chevy to a victory at Illiana. Twelve years later Johnny Rutherford won the Indianapolis 500.

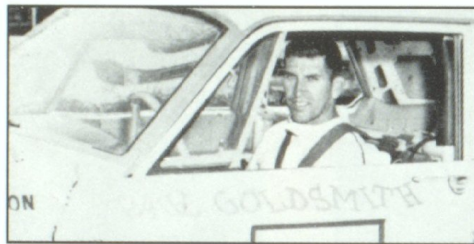
Recently the King of Racing retired from the stock car circuit. Richard Petty made Illiana one of his stops on the Richard Petty Fan Appreciation Tour. Even though he did not race in the evening's events, he thrilled the many spectators by his attendance.

Illiana has been the site of the Tony Bettenhausen Memorial Race for years. Winners have included Troy and Joe Ruttman and Paul Goldsmith. Illiana was also the site for the Schererville 125th week-long celebration in 1991. Many of the pictures of the 125th in this book were taken at Illiana.

Illiana continues to present weekly enjoyment to the many racing fans in the Illiana region. Harry and Signe Molenaar continue to operate the speedway with the same enthusiasm that they have had over their many years in the racing business.



The people who make it all possible, Harry and Signe Molenaar



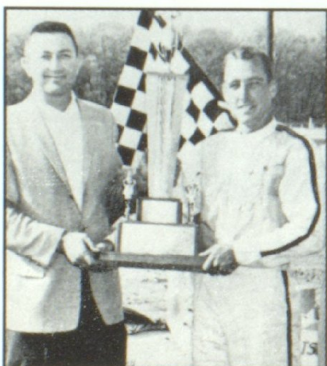
Paul Goldsmith



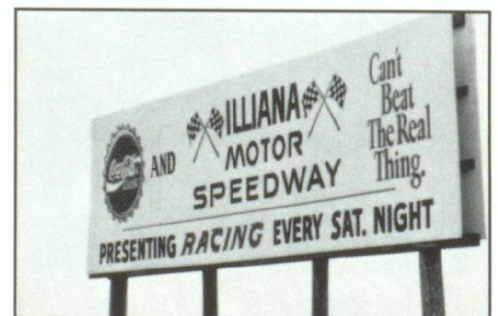
A.J. Foyt



Bob Hollifield and his potent Pontiac convertible captured the late model stock car track championship at Illiana in 1965. Bob was one of a number of Hollifields who have competed at Illiana through the years. Also included in this racing clan are Bob's brothers Roy and Harve, and nephew John.



Johnny Rutherford



SCHERWOOD — A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1957, Bill Christenson of Griffith, purchased forty acres of property, then a local hunting ground, from George Hartley of Schererville. The generous terms of no money down and forever to pay was the start of Scherwood Club.



Bill gathered a group of investors to start the Club. An Olympic size swimming pool opened in 1957 and was soon followed by a banquet hall to serve weddings, dances, etc.

A trapshooting range was installed at the Northern section of the acquired property. It included many firing stations and a clubhouse. The gun club hosted many local shooting events. Soon an archery field and tennis court appeared and the Club became a popular recreation facility. In 1960 a miniature golf course was built near the entrance at Joliet Street.

Ted Locke, an Iowa golf course architect, was retained to build a nine hole golf course. Instead, land was purchased west of the original property to accommodate the construction of a regulation 18 hole course. Scherwood Golf opened September 1967. The first round of golf included five players. They were Bob Teegarden of Schererville, John Whitaker of the Hammond Times, Gene Pettit of Highland, Malcolm Benjamin of Highland, and Marvin Hanson of Schererville. A few years later the archery field was converted into a 9 hole Par 3 golf course. Scherwood Golf was sold to Marvin and Eileen (Staniszesk) Hanson in January, 1980.

Scherwood Club expanded in 1972. The building was enlarged to encompass 24,000 square feet including three banquet rooms and a full service restaurant. Total seating capacity exceeds 900 persons. The business weathered several bumpy years after Bill Christenson leased it to two different groups. The name "Cameo" appeared in 1977 - 1979. After eviction of the "Cameo", the business was sold to Marv and Eileen Hanson in 1981. It is currently being managed by the Hansons and Robert & Beverly Thiesen of Crown Point. The new corporation is called Scherwood South, Inc.



Twenty acres were purchased on the East side of the Par 3 course in 1990 to modify the Par 3 course into an Executive 18 hole course. The course contains six par 4 and 12 par 3 holes. The new course, designed and built by Marv Hanson, opened in 1992.

Scherwood Pool was removed in 1993. Its age and the population's changing lifestyle made the operational costs of the facility outweigh the potential income.

With the additional purchase of 18 acres on the West and South boundary of Scherwood Golf, to be used for future expansion, the two businesses maintain approximately 190 acres in **Beautiful "Downtown" Schererville.**



Stan's Body Shop



Stan's Fleet of Recovery Vehicles - 1992

Stan's Body Shop has been a familiar landmark of the Schererville/St. John area for almost four decades. It is known as Stan's Body Shop, Auto Salvage and Towing Inc. Stan and his sons, Chip, Pat and Tim currently operate the business. The operation is on 23 acres. Thirty-eight years ago, Stan started with one small tow truck. The Lukasiks currently have a fleet of 12 tow trucks including a heavy-duty truck that took six months to build to their specifications. Stan claims to have the "oldest tow and recovery company in America."

Stan was born on May 1, 1930 in Hammond to Philip and Agnes Lukasik. Stan and the former Dolores Jaryszak were married on June 23, 1951. Their children are Stephen "Chip" Lukasik (Janet Davis), Randy Lukasik (Patty Winterhaler), Pat Lukasik (Donna Zahler), Tim Lukasik (Donna Gregor) and Ronna Lukasik.

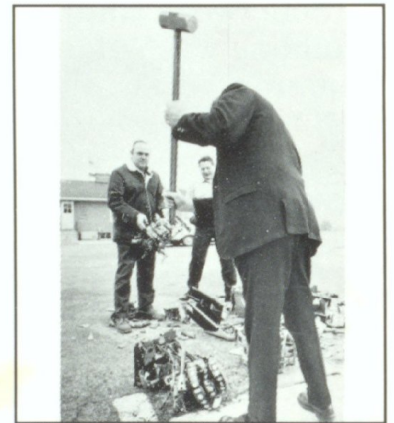
Stan and his parents moved to south of Dyer in 1942 and farmed there until Stan enlisted with the Marine Corps in 1951. After serving in Korea he was discharged in 1954. He joined the Dyer Police Department which, at that time, was under a Marshall System. He spent 14 years with Dyer Police, and in the meantime, began operating his own auto body repair shop. He left the Dyer Police in 1968 and was appointed by Governor Orr to the post of Justice-of-the-Peace. He performed scores of wedding ceremonies. Stan



Judge Stan Lukasik, Justice of the Peace, State of Indiana, marries one of his employees, Frank Kammer, to Ruth Holl.

ceased being a J.P. when the system was abolished. The J.P. office was located at the Breezy Point Motel which was torn down years ago. It still has a sign standing across from Lake Central.

On the same property as Stan's Body Shop was a spring-fed lake that the area farmers would obtain ice from in the winter. They would cut the ice and use it themselves and sell it in Chicago. The lake was also a water stop for the steam locomotives that would travel from Indianapolis to Chicago. The lake was named Dead Man's Lake. The name was derived from the story that a man drowned in the lake in the early 1920's. Stan also rented time on the lake for fishermen in the mid-fifties.



Judge Lukasik orders demolition of confiscated slot machines in the late '60's.



Stan's Body Shop in the early '60's.



The Lukasik Family. Left to Right: Stephen (Chip), Randy, Ronna, Delores, Stan, Tim, Patrick.

ROLLIN-ON

R.V. SALES
SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA
(219) 865-1656



Constructed in 1949-50 by Joseph Reiplinger (born in Schererville in 1888, an early pioneer of the town), the cinder block building was operated as a Shell Gas Station by two sons, Robert & James. It's claim of good service and last gas going west for 27 miles, served it well for 18 years. Rented out as a camper sales in 1970, it later became known as Rollin-On RVs, owned by Paul Craven, (1977). Adjacent properties were purchased in 1978 and 1984 bringing the total area to 18 acres. Extensive remodeling completed in 1984 established Rollin-On RVs as a modern, state of the art Recreational Vehicle dealership.

PICTURED:

Top Row:

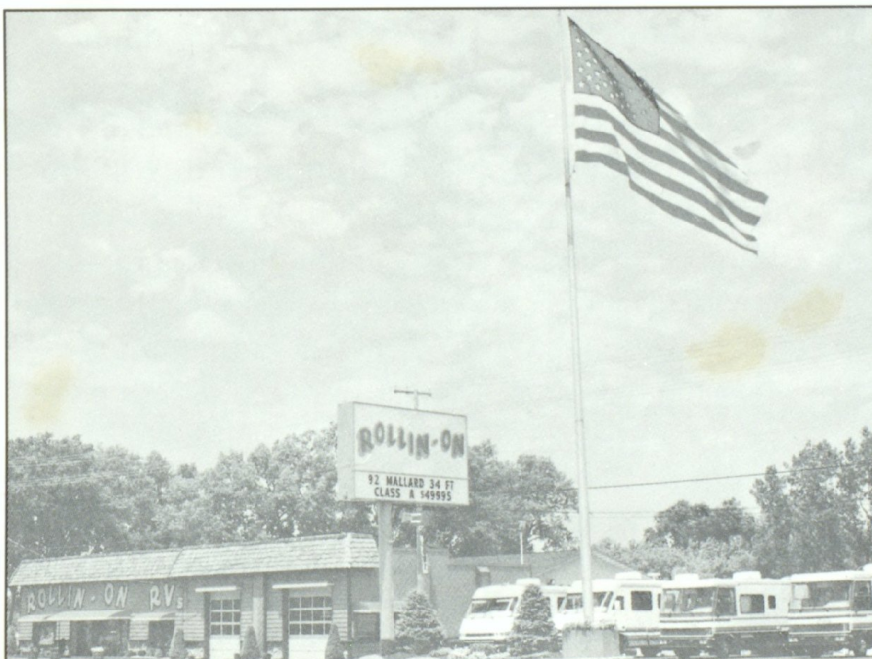
*Bill Carpenter, Rick Young,
Joe Price, Bobby Steffan,
Dan Buchler, Clyde Wolfe*

Middle Row:

*Art Carey, Carol Dugan,
Tammy Todd, Sibylle Horvath,
Cher McKay, Paul Craven*

Bottom Row:

*Glenn Britton, Todd Drury,
Brian McKay, Kris Craven,
Paul Craven, Jr.*

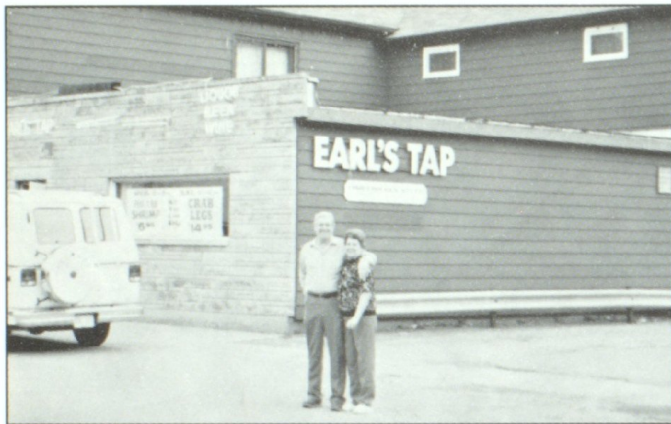


Following the principles of honesty and good service, Rolling-On has continued growing to become one of the oldest and largest RV Dealers in the nation with customers throughout the midwest. The staff at Rollin-On invites you to stop in anytime - we have a huge inventory to fill your needs. You won't be disappointed. We need your business.

Earl's Tap



August Miller Tavern was built around the turn of the century. The home on the left of the picture was where Pete & Emma Redar lived. That house was moved to 342 Division.



Earl & Pat (Jillson) Hilbrich purchased the tavern 8-18-67. The Dining Room was added around 1954.



Back Left to Right: Mary 2-20-67, Earl Jr. 11-3-71, Lori 1-26-66. Lower Left to Right: Craig 4-29-60, Liz 6-10-59, Doug 11-25-65.



In the old days the bar was on the west side of the building.



Present-day bar. Jack Beville, Earl Hilbrich.

Earl Hilbrich (2-28-34) and Pat (Jillson, 5-6-39) are the proud proprietors of Earl's Tap. This historic drink and eat emporium dates back to early Schererville.

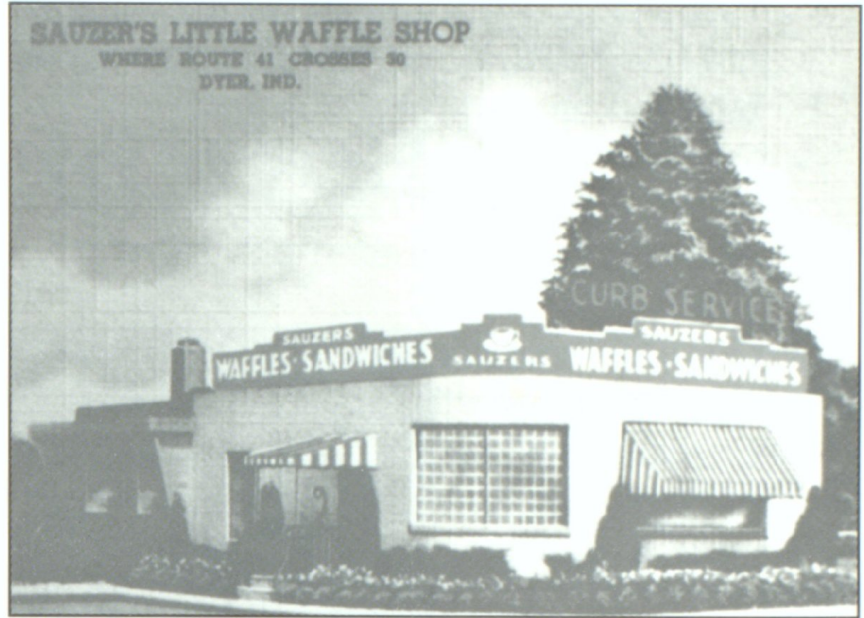
Earl is a 1949 graduate of St. Michael's. He is the youngest of 14 children born to William and Elizabeth (Styer) Hilbrich. Besides Earl, there were May, Herbert, Ollie, Ornie, Lillian, Sylvia, Gennie, Leona, Bill, Bob, Betty, Flo, and Sylvia (deceased 6-24-24). The family home-stead is at 135 W. Joliet Street.

Pat comes from an equally large family of 14 children. Her father was John and her mother was Amelia. Pat was born and raised in Cedar Lake and graduated from Crown Point High School.

Sauzer's



Frank & Edna (Nickle) Sauzer
moved to Schererville in 1941



Sauzer's Waffle Shop. Established in 1941 & closed in 1990. The Sauzer Family would like to thank you for your patronage. Note Dyer address...anything west of NY Central tracks was Dyer mailing address.

THE SAUZER FAMILY HAS BEEN HAPPY TO
PROVIDE YOU WITH FAMILY DINING &
ENTERTAINMENT FOR OVER 50 YEARS



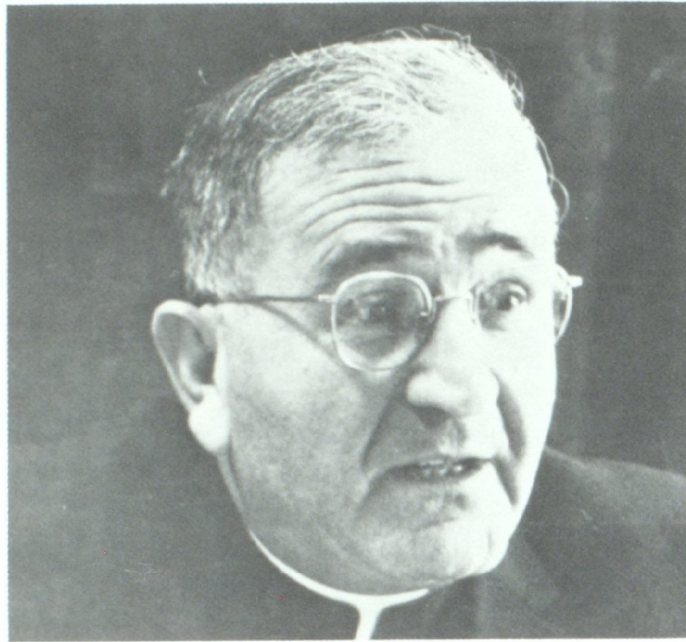
Sauzer's Kiddieland. Established in 1950, 3 generations of providing you with family entertainment.



Frank Jr. & Jane (Clark) Sauzer

HOOSIER BOYS' TOWN

46 Years of Helping Boys in Need



In 1947 Rev. Michael A. Campagna opened the doors of Hoosier Boys' Town. This was a dream he had conceived three years earlier during World War II. In many cases husbands and fathers were removed from the home due to the war and mothers worked hard to hold the family together. Often there was not enough money to go around and boys were forced to leave home and try to make it on their own. Some of those young men found a haven at Hoosier Boys' Town that gave them the resources to enter responsible adulthood.



Pictured at left are Al and June Yelich. Al and his brother were residents of Hoosier Boys' Town for many years under Msgr. Campagna's administration. Al recently stated to a local newspaper that, "Life at Boys Town was great. The father (Campagna) was a very inspiring man." Al and his wife, June, were houseparents at Boys' Town for a number of years. He left to spend more time with his wife and children. Today, Al is an electrician and a very successful part of the Schererville community. He is very active in both church and community organizations.



Left to Right: Associate Director Gail Hamer, Delorse Parker, Secretary for 42 Years at Hoosier Boys' Town, Anita Dygert-Gearheart, Executive Director.

Today, forty-six years later, Hoosier Boys' Town's doors are still open to young men ages ten to eighteen. Our boys attend local schools and churches, hold part-time jobs in the community and have chores to do in their cottages, just as they did forty-six years ago. Many of the young men continue to come from homes that are not able to provide the guidance and resources to enter into responsible adulthood.

In its infancy, Boys' Town was considered a type of foster home. Today we are a therapeutic residential facility. We believe that removing a boy from a dysfunctional home for twelve to eighteen months, by itself, will not typically solve the problem. It is

important to offer educational, therapeutic, spiritual and physical programming to provide these children with the opportunity to change their life's direction. Ultimately, our hope is to reunite the boy with his family, and to this end we provide programs aimed at strengthening the family unit. We are very proud to be a contributing part of the Schererville community. We are grateful to the many community leaders, organizations, and individuals who have supported us in our mission for almost a half-century. We hope we can count on you in the future to assist us as we strive to help the young men in our care find a better life and become a productive part of society.



Left to Right: Seated, Irene Wleklinski, Delorse Parker; Standing, Pat Rymill, Jeanette Borzani, Carmen Gorley, Cecilia Mahan.

Please call Hoosier Boys' town at 838-7723, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. if you would like to arrange a tour of our campus or find out more about us and the work we do.

Congratulations Schererville on your 125th Anniversary!

Anita Dygert-Gearheart
Executive Director



Left to Right: Ed Stenger, Sam Palermo, Bob Schroeder

H&R BLOCK®

THE INCOME TAX PEOPLE

H & R BLOCK of Schererville was started as an income tax preparation franchise by Rich Jonas in 1972. For the first few years it was located in the Turner Building at 10 E. Joliet. In 1980, the former Rutledge, later Miller home, (built at the turn of the century) at 9 W. Joliet was purchased and an office was added to the front of the old home. In the mid-80's an addition was put on to the existing office. Rich and Betty Jonas and their staff of tax preparers are in their 20th year in Schererville. Betty and Rich have four children, Mike (married to Laura Mastey of Schererville), Sue, Sandy (married to Steve Stum of Griffith) and Mark. They have lived in Schererville since 1970.



**9 W. Joliet Street
Schererville, IN 46375
322-5020**

THE SCHULTE FAMILY

The Schulte Family is an old-name that dates far back into the history of Schererville.

Pictured to the right are William H. Schulte, born August 9, 1905 - died November 12, 1989 and his wife Marcella C. Franz Schulte - born March 12, 1907 and died September 16, 1978. Bill was a career railroad man. He worked on the Pennsylvania Railroad from 1923 until his retirement in 1970.



The picture to the left shows Schulte offspring and spouses. They are: upper left - Richard Wagner, Arlene Wagner Schulte, Vernon Schulte and Gerard Schulte. Lower left are Wilma Fisher Schulte and William Schulte.



Early Pioneers

Our Founder - Nicholas Scherer

Nicholas Scherer was born on the 29th day of June in 1833 in Scheren, Germany which is in the Saar Valley. He was one of seven children of John and Mary Scherer. He came to the United States with neighbor families at the age of 13. They landed in New York and then came to LaPorte, Indiana in 1846. They traveled from LaPorte by horse and wagon to Lake County and settled in the town of St. John. Nicholas worked for farmers grubbing stumps and tilling the soil after his arrival to repay them for his passage to America.

Three years later he sent for his brother Matthias. In 1849, they opened a saloon in St. John and afterwards added a hotel. This was the first saloon in Lake County. In the years that followed they opened a distillery in Dyer which was operated by Matt. It was known for the fine corn whiskey made there.

In 1853, at the age of 20, Scherer became a contractor working for the State of Indiana as a swamp-land ditcher. He was later appointed land commissioner and held this position until he entered his railroad interests. He was engaged by the railroads to build road beds with the use of horses and wheel scrapers. He later was hired by the Pan Handle Division of the Chicago and Great Eastern Railroad (later to become the Pennsylvania Railroad) to superintend a section of the road from Richmond, Indiana to Chicago. He had charge of the building and repairing as well as running all kinds of trains. In addition to his official connection with the Chicago and Great Eastern, he built sections of the Monon, Michigan Central, Eastern Illinois and the Milwaukee and St. Paul railroads. Mr. Scherer continued with his varied railroad interests for about 12 years.

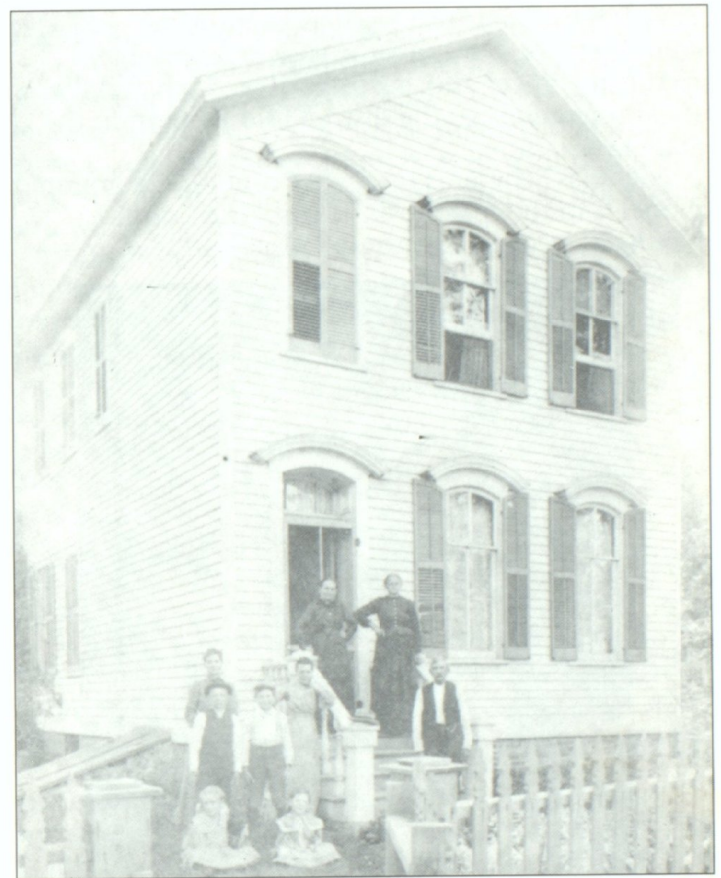
In 1863, Governor Morton appointed Nicholas Scherer a 2nd Lieutenant for the enlisting and recruiting service of Indiana. He was instrumental in securing 140 recruits and became a Major in the State Militia.

In 1865, Scherer and N.D. Wright purchased 70 acres of land from John Redar along the right-of-way of the soon-to-be-completed Pan-Handle Road. The old Centennial Book did not address just who Mr. Wright was. Apparently, he was the person who "engineered" the laying out of the town, according to Jim Stephen. Scherer planned out his village on 40 acres of land which he divided in 400 lots. He gave his village his family name. The village, with the name of Schererville, was recorded on April 10, 1866 located in the township of St. John, county of Lake, in the state of Indiana.

Scherer sold his interests in Dyer and moved to Schererville in 1867. At this time, in addition to railroad interests, he was engaged in the business of shipping sand from Schererville. He also dealt in real estate, in the common sense of the word, and was a successful farmer.



Nicholas and Frances Scherer



Scherer's home which is still located at 33 Wilhelm Street. On the porch are Mr. and Mrs. Scherer and unidentified lady. Standing at left of porch are Mary Scherer, Catherine Young, Harry Austgen and Joseph Scherer. Seated are from left to right: Mamie Scherer and Romie Young.

Nicholas Scherer married Frances Uhlenbrock, also a native of Germany, in 1862 while still residing in St. John. The original history of Schererville spells their names in the "American" way. The history of St. Michael's spells their names Nicolaus and Francisca. They were the parents of seven children; Anna, Mrs. Nicholas Schafer; Margaret, Mrs. Adam Gerlach; Nicholas Jr., killed by lightning in 1893; Theresa, Mrs. Jacob Austgen; John G., died in 1892; Joseph, died in 1891; Mary, died in her teens. Mr. Scherer's parents resided with him in their last years and died at the ages of 103 and 99. The Scherers were Roman Catholics. They served the church financially as well as personally and donated the land for church building purposes and for the cemetery. The street running down the hill from St. Michael's Church was originally named Mary Street after his daughter Mary. Some years later, it was changed for some unknown reason to Central. During the 125th year of Schererville, it was renamed Mary Street. The same is true of Grand. It had also been named after one of the Scherers, but later renamed for some forgotten reason. This street, also, was changed back to its original name, Francisca (his wife's name), in 1991.

Nicholas Scherer's labors were of the character that contributed to the development and improvement of the entire area, as well as to his individual prosperity. Outside the strict path of business he was an instrumental factor in promoting movements for the welfare of the general public. Through the years he served as swamp land commissioner, road superintendent, constable, recruiting officer and as postmaster of Schererville. He also represented the district for one term in the State Legislature.

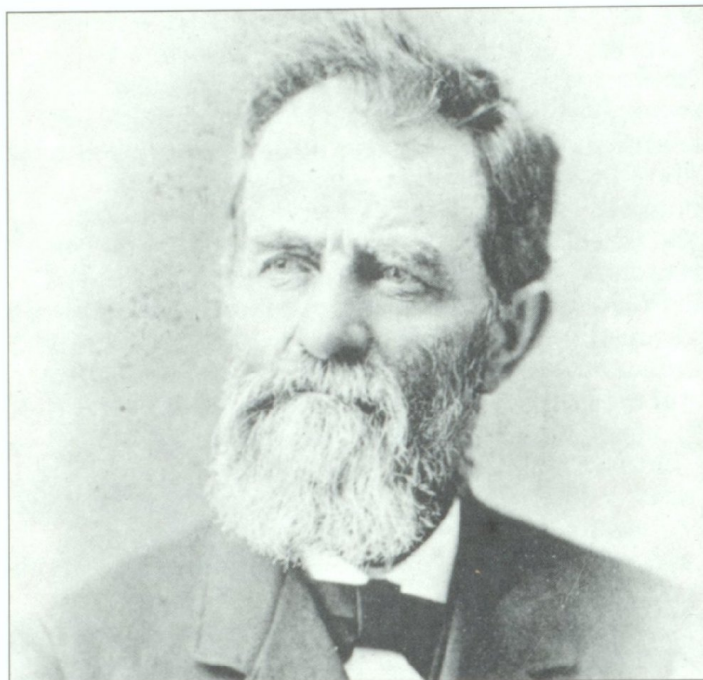
Nicholas Scherer is numbered among the honored pioneers in the historic annals of Lake County, having played such a prominent part in the

development of the county. He came to Indiana empty handed and in a humble capacity entered business life. His indefatigable energy and industry brought him personal integrity and financial success. Mr. Scherer, recognizing that each day held its duty and its opportunity, performed to the best of his ability each task that came to him.

Mr. Scherer retired from the active life of work and business in 1895. In 1907, at the age of 74, he passed away at his home. Funeral services were held at St. Michael's Church in Schererville and he is interred in the parish cemetery. His home still stands a few doors to the east of St. Michael's at 33 Wilhelm Street.

Aaron Norton Hart

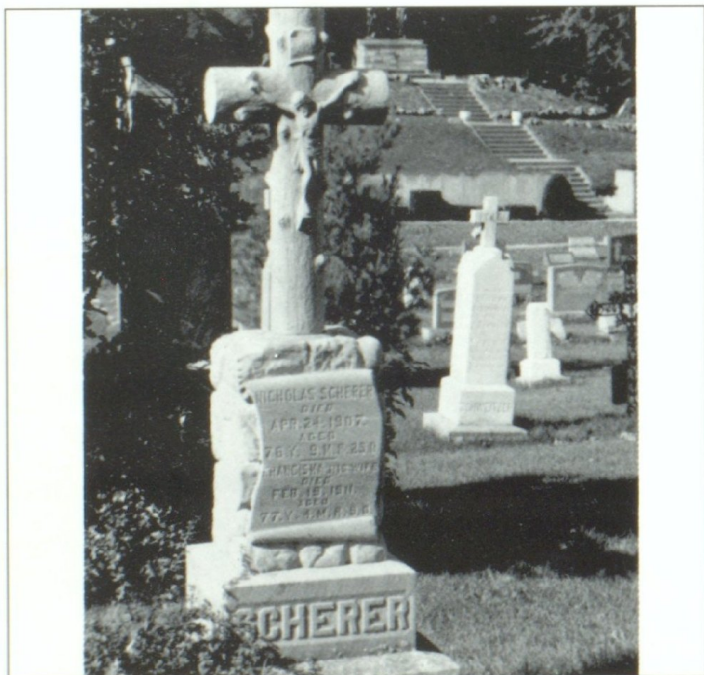
Prior to his arrival in northern Indiana, Aaron Norton Hart had been a publisher in Philadelphia. As to the year he came, histories of this area vary from 1855 to 1857. One source notes that he had



Aaron Norton Hart

"engaged in successful eastern and western book ventures". Thus, he may have passed through a few times before he decided to make this region his home. Quite likely it was company business that brought him through here because the Hart firm had published a variety of beautifully illustrated volumes on Western life. One thing is certain, however, A.N. Hart looked upon the immense Cady Marsh, then covered with water, and the large pond called Lake George which lay between what is now Schererville and Dyer and saw a potential which before had gone unnoticed. What followed changed the course of his life and hastened the development of the prosperous communities in this portion of Lake County.

By the end of 1857, Aaron Hart had purchased several thousand acres of the "despised swamp lands" from the government at prices ranging from



Mr. Scherer's grave located in St. Michael's Cemetery looking toward Mr. Calvery.

75 cents to \$1.25 an acre. He then proceeded to drain the land by constructing an elaborate system of ditches through it. This system has as its main artery the Hart Ditch which connects with Plum Creek in Dyer and flows to the Little Calumet River. When the digging of the Hart Ditch was completed, about twenty thousand acres of fertile land were made available for settlement and productivity.

Sam B. Woods, in his *The First Hundred Years of Lake County, Indiana* said "Hart, with the help of hired men and two yoke of oxen plowed a ditch from Plum Creek at Dyer to Ridge road." When the ditch had to be deepened, Mr. Woods wrote, Eldred Munster Jr. was given the job. "This he did by filling a big box with sand and drawing it out of the ditch with oxen. There were no scrapers or steam shovels in those days and that was the beginning of the big ditch you now cross on Ridge Road west of Highland."



Martha Dyer Hart

Hart moved his family from Philadelphia to Dyer in 1861. The town of Dyer, incidentally, was named after Mrs. Hart's maiden name of Dyer. Then, for a few years, Hart concentrated his main energy on the real estate business in Chicago, employing others to develop his Indiana holdings. In a few years, however, the supervision of the Hartsdale farm of 8,000 acres began to demand most of his time and effort. He was also accumulating more land in Lake County and, by 1880, had more than 15,000 acres — worth by this time from \$30 to \$300 an acre. At the time of his accidental death on January 12, 1883, he owned 17,000 acres, mostly in St. John Township.

One history of Lake County, written before Hart's death states that five railroads, five stations and fifteen miles of track were on the Hart's farm and "as many as eight or nine railroads cross his land, giving him in all about twenty-five miles of track". The farm had about twenty-five miles of fences and

about the same length of ditches. There were about forty employees on the farm, which was devoted to raising herds of dairy and beef cattle and producing crops of grain and vegetables. Sam Woods, in writing of the Hart farm notes: "The principal crop in the early history of the development of this region was wild hay. Some of it was used for stuffing horse collars and some — what they call packing hay — was used for packing breakable goods for shipment."

Around 1860, Mr. Hart built a fifteen room colonial style home in Dyer. Sometime later he built another house at Hartsdale on the Hart farm. He spent most of his time at the Hartsdale home while the family continued to live in Dyer. The Dyer home was located at 135 Joliet Street. It was torn down about twenty years ago to make way for drive-in banking facilities.

As to Aaron N. Hart himself, Miss Bessie Hart of Crown Point recalled that her grandfather was a "short man who always had a pocketful of peanuts for her." Sam Woods wrote that Hart always said, "This land will be valuable some day!" Miss Hart recalled an incident which emphasizes this faith. She said that her father, Milton, and her grandfather were surveying some land Hart had bought along the shore of Lake Michigan which is now a part of Gary. As the two were resting for lunch her grandfather asked, "Well, son, what do you think of our sand and tumbleweed?" Milton declared, "I wouldn't give you a nickel for the whole outfit." "Oh, you are very wrong," replied the elder Hart. "You will live to see a wonderful harbor here some day."

One can assume, from the variety and the content of the letter which he saved, that Aaron Hart had a genuine interest in people. His employees, at least those in supervisory positions, stayed with him for long periods of time. From all accounts he got along well with his neighbors.

Wilhelmine Stallbohn Kaske, writing of her childhood in early Munster where her father ran the Brass Tavern, said, "I can well remember old Mr. Hart riding through on horseback dressed in overalls and wearing a plug hat. He used to stop at least once a week for dinner with us."

Mrs. Hart was, for much of her life, an invalid. Hart was a very attentive husband and frequently took his wife into Chicago for medical treatment. Bessie Hart recalled that the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 occurred on one of those trips and her grandparents had to leave the city by horse and wagon instead of their normal manner of travel to Chicago which was by train. Hart always arranged for permanent passes and the stopping of trains at his convenience before he allowed a railroad to cross his property. He also insisted that each railroad maintain adequate drainage along its right-of-way in order to keep its privilege of using his property.

The Harts had four children: three sons, West, Milton and Malcolm and one daughter, Flora. West, according to Sam Woods was a "wild fellow and a good many funny stories were told of his escapades." However, the only wild tale told by Mr. Woods about West is the one which concerned him selling his

father the same mule on two different occasions thus giving the elder Hart a matched team of one mule.

West and Flora died childless. The descendants of Aaron Hart through Milton are in the sixth generation and through Malcolm, his youngest son who carried on and expanded many of his father's enterprises, in the seventh generation. A majority of the original Hart holdings in Schererville is now Plum Creek.

Aaron Hart was a "crank on ditches" Sam Woods wrote. Another history said "Ditching is Mr. Hart's hobby and he evidently rides it most successfully."

It was a remarkable coincidence, then, that he should meet his death in a ditch on January 12, 1883. This is a portion of the account of the accident printed in a local paper at that time. "Friday morning about 11:30 o'clock, Mr. Hart was superintending the construction of a ditch cutting off a large bend in Plum Creek, which flows through his farm at Dyer. The ditch had already been cut through and a current was flowing. The bottom of the ditch was about two feet wide and the bank some ten or twelve feet high. A man was working just ahead of him, cutting off clods and frozen earth, while Mr. Hart was standing at the bottom of the ditch, pulling the loosened clods down into the ditch that they might float off. Suddenly, without warning, the left-bank caved, the sharp frozen edge of the falling bank striking him in the region of the heart. Death was instantaneous."

Thus ended the life of a man who possessed a great faith in the future of Schererville and the surrounding communities and who had the energy

and skill to hasten their settlement and growth. As Sam B. Woods states: "In a thousand years from now, if a history of this area were written, Aaron Norton Hart should hold a prominent place in the story of its development."

John Seberger, Early Settler

John Seberger was born on February 2, 1821, in Gerweiler, Germany. At the age of twenty-one John made plans to come to America. He left Gerweiler on April 30, 1842, and traveled several months before he reached London where he booked passage on a boat sailing for the United States. After he arrived in New York, he traveled by boat, first to Albany and then to Buffalo. He took a train from Buffalo to Chicago where he was able to borrow a team of horses to complete his journey. On August 30, 1842, he reached his destination, Otis, Indiana, located near Michigan City. His brother Matt had settled in that area several years earlier.

While in Otis, John learned that the government was selling land in Indiana for \$1.25 an acre. He went to Winamac where he paid fifty dollars for forty acres of land located in the area of present-day Schererville. In the fall of 1842, he built a log cabin on these forty acres and became the third settler in this area.

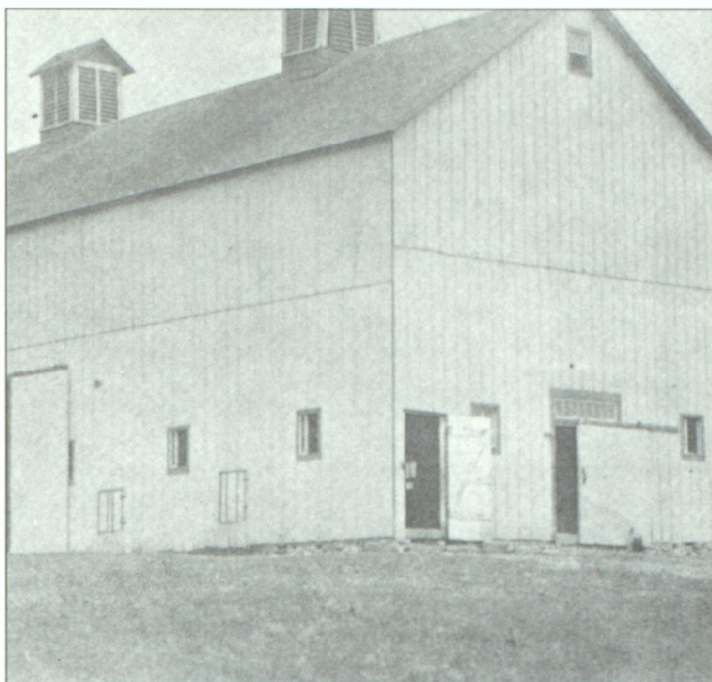
He married Catherine Hack on February 10, 1846. They made their home on the original homestead and were the parents of eleven children. Catherine was one of eleven children born to John and Johanna Hack, the first pioneers of the town of St. John.

Top row
standing left to right:
Peter Seberger, John
Seberger Jr., Kate
Seberger, Joe Seberger,
Lena Seberger Wein,
Frank Seberger,
Mary Seberger Treinen,
Nick Seberger.

Sitting left to right,
second row:
Matt Seberger,
Susie Seberger Thiel,
Margaret Seberger Homan,
John Seberger (father),
Susan Seberger (mother),
George Seberger on Mother's lap,
Jacob Seberger,
Michael Seberger,
Anna Seberger Heiser.

Bottom row, left to right: Lizzie
Seberger Schiska,
Joe Seberger,
Barbara Seberger Grimmer.





Seberger barn before it burned in one of Schererville's largest fires.



Seberger barn after being rebuilt. It still stands.

Catherine passed away in 1860 at the age of forty. Later John married Susan Miller of Chicago. To them were born fourteen children.

John continued to improve and enlarge his farm, which at the time of his death on August 6, 1893, was divided among his three sons. Mathias, Jacob and Michael established three individual farms where each lived until his death.

The house that replaced the log cabin on the original forty acres became part of the farm owned by Jacob. His three children, Sylvester, Elsie, and Leona Seberger hold the original "General Land Grant" signed by James K. Polk, President of the United States. This house, which is now 148 years old, is one of the oldest structures still standing in Schererville. It is still occupied by the three Seberger children, Elsie, Leona and Sylvester.

Nicholas Schafer

Nicholas Schafer was born on June 29, 1849, in St. John, Indiana to Matt Schafer and Barbara (Davis) Schafer. He spent his early life on the farm with his parents.

Nicholas married Anna Scherer on January 6, 1873. After their marriage they moved to Chicago where he worked in a grocery store. After living there two and one-half years, and not liking city life, they returned to Schererville.

While living in Chicago, a son, Nicholas Jr. was born to them. Most of Nicholas Jr.'s life was spent with his parents. He passed away on April 27, 1949. Another son, Edward, was born in 1875. He was killed accidentally at the age of twenty-four.

A daughter, Mary, was born November 22, 1878. She married John Schiessle and had two children. After his death, Mary returned with her two children to live with her parents.

Four children were born to them during the

1880's. A son, Joseph, was born on February 3, 1880. At last reports, in the year of 1966, he was 86 and living in San Diego. It is obvious that he has passed away. His brother, Frances was born in 1883, but died just eighteen months later. Albert was born November 17, 1885, and after his marriage moved to Omaha, Nebraska where he was in the carpentry business until his death. Elizabeth was born on December 23, 1887. She married and lived at 125 Wilhelm Street.

William was born in 1890 and, after his marriage, moved to Terre Haute where he spent the rest of his life.



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Schafer on their 65th wedding anniversary.



*60th wedding anniversary
Seated left to right:
Joe Schafer, Elizabeth
Cromer, Eugene Cromer,
Russel Cromer, Mary
Schiessle, William
Schafer seated on ground,
Mary Schafer, Nicholas
Schafer, Jr., Al Schafer,
Mrs. Anna Schafer and
Mr. Nicholas Schafer.*

*Standing left to right:
Harold Cromer, Vernon
Schafer, Minnie Scherer,
Henry Schafer, Mary
Scherer, Tom Brown,
Raymond Schafer,
Richard Schafer and Mrs.
Clarence Schafer holding
their daughter Patricia.*

The youngest son of Nicholas and Anna Schafer was born on October 2, 1896. Clarence and his wife Augusta resided at 1704 Austin Avenue. Clarence was the Building Inspector for Schererville for many years. He passed away January 12, 1988 and is buried at St. Michael's.

Nicholas Schafer learned the trade of cobbler from his father and uncle. After he returned to Schererville he did farming and opened a cobbler shop where many of the town's people had their shoes repaired. He was County Assessor for many years and also worked as road foreman for the County. Records show that Mr. Schafer was Treasurer of the Schererville School Board from 1915 until he retired in 1940.

On the morning of August 12, 1943, when returning from Mass at St. Michael's Church Mr. Schafer was killed by a train at the crossing on Wilhelm Street near his home. He was 94 years of age.

Mrs. Schafer passed away in her home at 1701 Junction Avenue on November 14, 1948, at the age of 96.

Peter Kuhn — Cowboy-Railroader-Farmer

The meandering Panhandle, The Chicago Greateastern, was built through Schererville about three years before Peter Kuhn arrived in this area. The year was 1868 and Peter, 11 years of age, and his family had made the trip from Bergen, Trier, Germany. His father, John, who had owned a grocery store there, came to America several years

earlier, followed the bricklaying trade and after establishing a homestead returned to Germany to bring his family to this country.



Peter and Anna Kuhn

Mr. Kuhn often told the story of their trip, from Chicago to Hartsdale, via the Panhandle Railroad, arriving late in the evening and how the family got lost in their trek through the prairie and had to sleep

in a hay stack the first night. The following morning they arrived at and stayed with Mr. Kuhn's uncle, Nick Mininger (Bunz Claus), a brother to Peter's mother. Later they moved to the homestead, 40 acres of woodland northeast of Schererville.



Kuhn family, standing left to right: Michael, Mary, Theresa, Kate, Matthias, John, Margaret, Nicholas and Peter. Seated left to right: Barbara, Mr. & Mrs. Kuhn and Rose seated in foreground.

Peter's first job, at the age of eleven, was herding cattle for A.N. Hart on the great unfenced lowlands where the stock roamed at will and could easily be lost without a herdsman. He also helped with the corn planting. This job turned out to be carrying a sack of corn slung from the shoulder and dropping the corn at measured steps. Then he would go back



Peter Kuhn at age 65 after he left his farm. Photo taken on the north side of Joliet Street just west of the Laundromat.

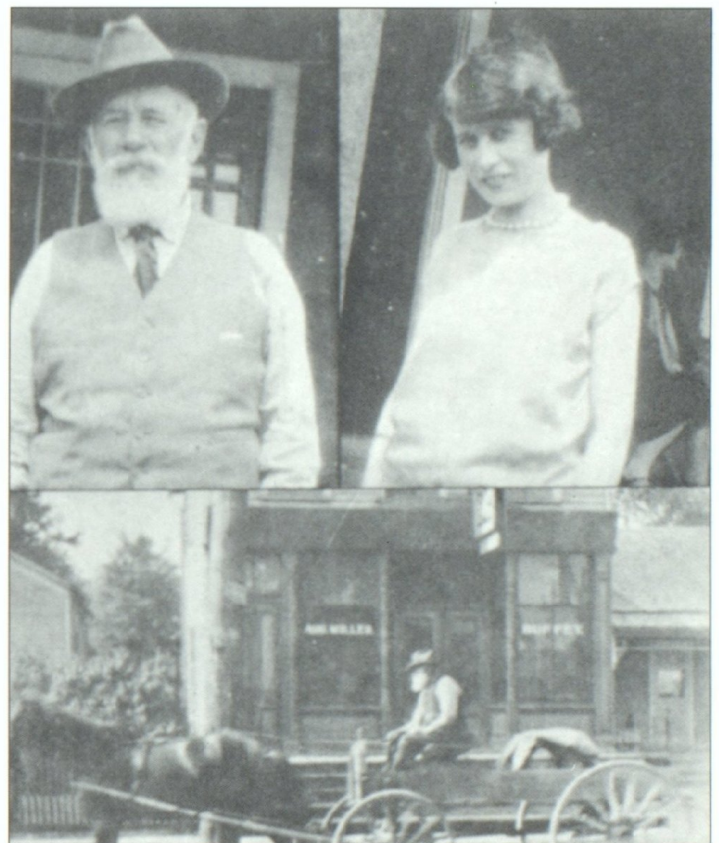
and cover the corn with a stroke of the hoe. This was the beginning of an association with Mr. Hart that lasted until the latter's untimely death in a ditch cave-in years later.

After Hart got the big ditch through the ridge at Wicker Park, Peter Kuhn, then about fifteen years of age, drove five and eight yoke of oxen pulling plows and a bog cutter that sheared the hunnocks level with the ground. His yoke of oxen together with another's yoke of equal size were hitched to a giant plow to break ground for the first road right-of-way in that area, now part of Route 41, north of Teibel's corner to Main Street. The Indian trail, later to become the Lincoln highway was the only recognizable roadway in this part of the country until then.

Kuhn worked as a teamster, grading right-of-ways. He worked on ten railroads coming through Lake County during his railroading days. In the early 80's he worked in the Hebron, Monon and Rensselaer area widening the narrow gauge rails to standard widths so that more trains could use the rails. The pay was \$1.25 per day, he recalled. In 1882 he worked on the Erie, boarding with the Pohlplotz family in Crown Point and made the acquaintance of many Crown Pointers including Peter Fagen, Peter Heim, Frank Seberger and John Hack, Nick Thomas (his future father-in-law) and Peter Geisen.

While building railroads, Peter Kuhn also worked for Hart when at home and, in 1884, moved Miss Bess Hart's family, the Milton R. Harts, to their home on South Court Street.

In 1887, Peter married Anna Thomas, who at that time was a cook at the Hart ranch. They settled in



Susan Kuhn, Peter Kuhn and picture of Mr. Kuhn delivering milk to station.

Hartsdale. They later acquired a house and twenty acres from a Mr. Math Schutz. Their little farm was located on the road that Mr. Kuhn helped build and was only a short distance from the Hart ranch. In addition to farming the twenty acres at home, Peter Kuhn also rented ground from Hart and also acquired 40 acres near Griffith.

In 1907 Peter Kuhn moved his family to a 148 acre farm in Schererville that he bought from the Nick Schutz estate. Here the Kuhn family ran a grain and dairy farm until 1922 when they retired. Mr. Kuhn passed away in 1932 and Mrs. Kuhn in 1952.

The Kuhns had 12 children, 7 girls and 5 boys. At one time the five boys were all railroaders. At the time of the Centennial five of the children were still living in Schererville.

Michael Steuer — First Chief of Police

Michael Steuer was born in Bacham, Germany April 30, 1855. He came to America in the year 1871. Accompanying him on this journey were his mother, a brother and three sisters. He settled, with his mother, at what is now 6 Wilhelm Street.

On February 23, 1886, he married Elizabeth Schumacher Reeder. She was a widow and had two sons. He and his wife settled on the farm once known as the Lundeberg-Schweitzer farm. They had 3 children: Mrs. George Peifer (Susanna) born on January 15, 1887, Mrs. William Hilbrich (Elizabeth) born February 21, 1889 and Allie who was born on May 21, 1891. Allie drowned at the age of 17 in Dead Lake which was behind Stan's Body Shop. Stan Lukasic, owner of Stan's, filled in the old fishing lake around 1980.



Michael Steuer and Elizabeth Schumacher Reeder.

His wife passed away in 1893 and her aunt, Mrs. Catherine Doffin, took over domestic chores. In the

fall of 1905, Steuer moved to what is the present home at 11 E. Joliet Street.

He was the first Town Marshall of Schererville starting his term on September 30, 1911, at a salary of \$144.00 per year. He held this position until he retired in 1925 and was succeeded by Peter Cope. He added to his town duties when he was appointed the first commissioner of the water department on January 20, 1920.

Between 1905 and 1915 he moved to what is now the present home at 19 Wilhelm Street and, in 1915, when his housekeeper passed away, he went to live with his daughter and her husband (Mr. and Mrs. William Hilbrich) at 135 W. Joliet Street. He lived there until his death on June 13, 1932.

Michael Grimmer — Noted Early Settler

Michael Grimmer was born in Turkey Creek, Indiana on July 18, 1852. His parents came to America from Alsace-Lorraine. His father was a Captain in the French Army and served under Napoleon Bonaparte. Michael was only four weeks old when his father died, leaving his widow, Susanna, and two sons and two daughters surviving him. The sons, John and Michael, were Schererville residents. The daughter, Katherine, later became Mrs. Matthias Meyer and lived in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Elizabeth married John Weis and lived all her married life in Merrillville, Indiana.

Some years after his father's death, his mother married Mr. John P. Redar from St. John Township. The family moved to St. John Township where Michael grew to manhood.



Michael Grimmer

Michael taught in various schools in both Hanover and St. John Townships before coming to Schererville in the late 1870's. When he taught in Schererville, he also served as organist and choir director in St. Michael's Church.

Michael Grimmer and Helena Neuman, daughter of Joseph and Mary Neuman, from Schererville, were married in St. Michael's Church in August of 1880.

About 1883 he and his half-brother Peter F. Redar, as partners, opened a general merchandise store in a building on the site that was known as the Gard Building. After several years of partnership, Grimmer purchased Mr. Redar's interest and became the sole owner. He acquired title to the real estate and erected the building. For many years the United States Post Office was part of the building with Grimmer being the Post Master. His wife was appointed Post Mistress sometime later and held the position for many years.

Mr. Grimmer was elected Trustee of St. John Township and served eight years in that capacity. In November of 1896, he was elected Lake County Auditor and was re-elected to a second term for that office in 1900. Upon assuming his duties as County Auditor he sold his merchandise business and his creamery and ice businesses to John Weis and John Rietman.

After concluding his term of office as County Auditor, Mr. Grimmer served in two sessions of the Indiana State Legislature as a Representative from Lake County. He and his wife lived all their lives in Lake County. He died in his home in Crown Point in 1926. His widow died in 1934 and both are buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Schererville. Many of his relatives continue to live in and around Schererville. Mr. Grimmer was honored by having the Grimmer Middle School named in his memory.

John L. Thiel, Village Smithy

In the year 1874, John L. Thiel and Frances Dahlkamp were married and lived in Crown Point.

They had a daughter born to them in 1875 who was christened Clara.

On April 7, 1876, they brought their belongings to Schererville. They arrived by sled and because the snow was so deep, they had to drive through the fields and over fences. That same year, 1876, another daughter was born and given the name of Frances.

Three more daughters and seven sons were born to this couple. They were: Kate, 1877; John, 1879; Joseph, 1880; Lena, 1883; Susan, 1884; George, 1886; twins, William and Emil, 1888; Nicholas, 1890 and Aloysius, 1893.

Mr. Thiel owned and operated a blacksmith and woodwork shop across from the current Post Office. While Mr. Thiel worked in his shop, Mrs. Thiel kept house and did sewing and dressmaking for some of the townspeople.

Mr. Thiel was born May 15, 1848. His father was born in Trier, Germany and his mother in St. John, Indiana. He died suddenly on December 4, 1903, and his son John H. Thiel succeeded him in the business.

Mrs. Thiel was born on May 5, 1853. After her husband's death she remained living the the home at 122 E. Joliet Street until she passed away on February 22, 1936, at the age of 83.

Gard's Store — 1908-1959

The Gard Store was the focal point of interest in Schererville for over 50 years. Located at the corner of Joliet and Junction, it still stands in its remodeled form and as it has appeared for many years. The only change is its location and the business that now occupies it. The store faced Joliet Street until 1966 when it was moved to face Junction. It now is the business establishment of Towne Furniture.

George and Elizabeth Gard, with their two children, moved to Schererville in early 1908 from a farm near Crown Point to take over the general store business operated by Mrs. Gard's sister, Mary Weis,



John L. Thiel Blacksmith Shop. Men left to right: Andrew Doctor, Nicholas Thiel. John H. Thiel, John Berens.



Gard's General Store in 1932.

whose husband died in December 1907.

Mrs. Weis remained as Post Mistress until October 1913 at which time Mr. Gard became Post Master. He held that position until June 1928. Mr. Gard's store served as both the town's only general merchandise store and as it's post office.



George and Elizabeth Gard on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Gard's family increased eventually to six children, two daughters and four sons. Each child served his/her turn "watching" the store as the family resided upstairs.

Originally the Gard store was much narrower than it is now. In 1918, Mr. Gard had it enlarged to its present size. The original structure was built in 1881 by John Stumer.

Shortly after Mr. Gard took over the store he added feed, coal and numerous other items to complete the general store line. In the memory of the older residents of Schererville, this was the only store for many years. A store of this kind, that handled everything needed in a household, was very much appreciated at this early date, because of transportation difficulties. Even though the Model T had made its entry at virtually the same time that Mr. Gard started his store, it was basically a horse and buggy era. Roads were few and quite poor and travel was not easy. It can be remembered that bread was shipped in large wooden chests from Chicago by train. About 1911, a Gary bakery started delivery of bread direct to the store by horse and wagon.

In those days canned foods were similar to today. Glass containers were limited in varieties and most other foods came in bulk in wooden boxes, barrels and burlap sacks. Butter, lard and cheese were kept in the basement because there was no refrigeration. Yard goods were in great demand because of the lack of ready-to-wear dresses and other garments.



Gard's General Store in 1940. Pictured are Richard Schafer, a salesman and Charles Gard. The butcher, Joe Berger, is in the background.

It was not uncommon for residents to order coal, seed, flour, etc. and screens and have Mr. Gard deliver the same. He would install the screens himself.

The advertising slogan for Gard's Store during the era of 1908 to 1940 was "You Name It – Gard's Have It".

Mr. Gard maintained a full line of general store supplies until the early 1940's when the change of times forced the gradual elimination of the old general store line. The last 15 years, the store specialized in meats and groceries.

Mr. Gard was constantly occupied. When he had some leisure time he was out gardening. His special hobby was attending county fairs. Mr. and Mrs. Gard celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in 1952.

Mr. Gard died early in 1959 and a few months later, the family closed the store.

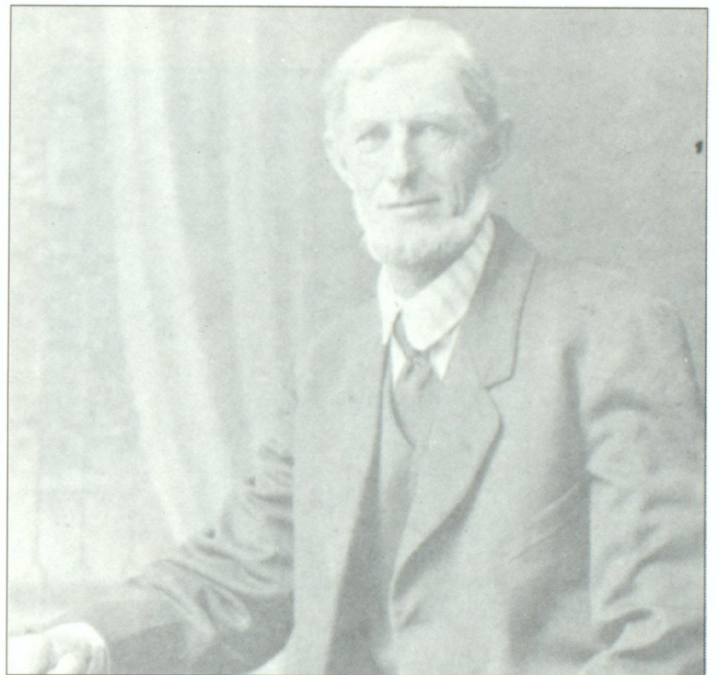
Sarinos Swets - "Abe"

In the year 1901 Mr. Sarinos Swets, better known as S.P. Swets or "Abe Lincoln" due to his striking resemblance to Mr. Lincoln, purchased 52 acres of farm land from M. Haag. Mr. Swets was the first area farmer to make a living by truck farming. In 1902 Mr. Swets and his family of eight moved from Maynard via a team of horses to the new farm land known as Hartsdale.

Mr. Swets spent much of his working life on railroad work. He was involved, in 1905 with the building of the I.H.B. line. Mr. Swets got the job as Road Supervisor and had to keep the County Roads

in repair and open in the winter.

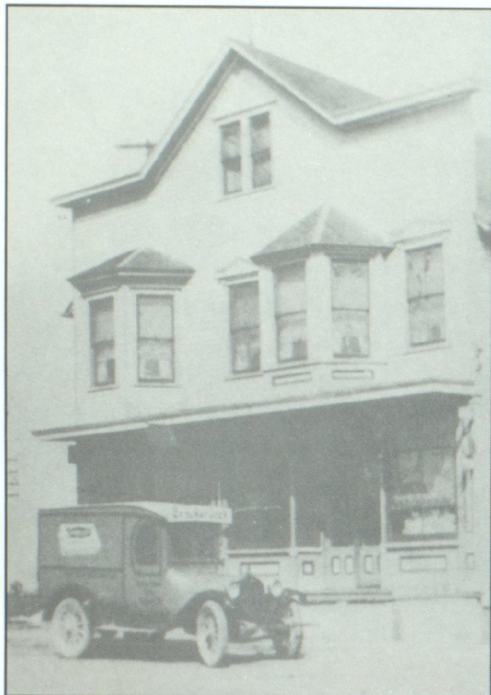
Mr. Swets was one of Lake County's staunch Republicans who had achieved a state-wide reputation in politics. His resemblance to Abe Lincoln in physique was astonishing. "Abe" Swets died in November 1936, at the age of 78.



Sarinos "Abe" Swets



Reflections of Time



Built in 1879 and known as Gards General Store, this building remains standing tall and strong. The advertising slogan from 1908 to 1940 was "You Name It - Gards Have It".



New Owners: Michael & Cynthia Abts with their children Tiffany and Sedena

We cordially invite you to stroll through this unique Heritage Building. 3 large floors with over 12,000 square feet of

**FINE ARTS ● CRAFTS
ANTIQUES ● GOURMET FOODS**

**"Old Fashioned
Quality and
Traditional
Hospitality"**



Acquired in early 1993, the Abts Family is proud to be a part of this 125th Anniversary celebration

OPEN 7 DAYS:

**Monday-Saturday 10-6;
Sunday 10-4**

**219-865-1711
1619 Junction Ave.
Schererville, Indiana**

Ralph & Mary Miller Family History



August Miller, born August 5, 1868, married Magdalena Hoffman, born August 3, 1874, on September 19, 1893. They originally lived in Crown Point, Indiana and moved to Schererville in 1912. Here they owned and operated the Miller's Tap. They had nine children; Raymond, Sylvia, Lawrence, Elnora, Ralph, Elmer, Edward, Mildred, and Herbert. Edward is the only surviving child and resides in Griffith, Indiana.



Harry Rutledge, born March 1873, married Elizabeth Risch, born February 6, 1884, on November 25, 1902. They lived at Hartsdale until 1904 when they moved to their home at 9 West Joliet Street in Schererville. He supported his family by working on the railroad in Hartsdale. They had thirteen children; Harry, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Catherine, James, Robert, Walter, William, Arthur, Roy, Edith, and John. Edith is the last surviving child and lives with her husband, Wilbur Matthews, in Black Oak, Indiana.



Ralph L. Miller was born on August 19, 1905. He moved to Schererville when he was seven years old. He met Mary V. Rutledge who was born October 24, 1904 and had moved to Schererville as a baby. They were married on November 26, 1925. He worked on the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railroad and for a while also ran the Miller's Tap. They had six children and had lived in four different houses in Schererville before purchasing the Rutledge home in 1939. Ralph passed away on March 18, 1963 and his wife, Mary, died on November 23, 1977. They had twenty-five grandchildren.



Howard was the oldest of the six children. He and his wife, Paula (Gettler), had two children and are now retired living in Ridge Manor, Florida. Rosemary married Dale Heacock, had five children and still resides in Schererville. Robert married Maureen Fagen and owned the Fagen Miller Funeral Gardens. Robert passed away on April 23, 1981 at the age of fifty. His wife and their four children still operate the funeral homes in Highland, Griffith, and Dyer. Helen married Frank Gard, raised six children and are still living in Schererville. David married Betty Ross and they had four children. Later they divorced and he married Frances Palanca. They have one daughter. David owns several car dealerships and he along with his wife and children manage them. Vera married Frank Pfeiffer and had three children. When the children were small they moved to Whipholt, Minnesota. Frank passed away on April 23, 1992.



SCHWEITZER - SCHUMACHER



Peter Schweitzer was born April 14, 1865 and died December 14, 1959. Mary Reder was born October 6, 1867 and died April 25, 1950. Peter and Mary were married November 1, 1889. Their children were: William, Nicholas, John, Jacob, Kathryn (Schiesser), Barbara, Tony, George, Clara, Joe, Edward, Theresa (Britton), and Margaret (Gerlach). In approximately 1925 they moved off their 100 acre farm (now Tom Lundeberg's property) to 10 Wilhelm Street. Peter "Grandpa" Schweitzer, as he was known to everyone, was the caretaker for St. Michael's Church and School. He performed maintenance on all buildings, hand dug graves, and shoveled coal for the furnaces at the convent, rectory, church and school at all hours of the day and night. Surviving children are Theresa (Britton) and Margaret (Gerlach).

Henry Schumacher was born July 17, 1859 and died June 18, 1935. Mary Rouhselange was born March 25, 1863 and died February 13, 1951. Henry and Mary were married in 1881. Their children were: George Henry, Rose (Thiel), Lauretta (Schweitzer), Theresa (Trinen), Mary (Doctor), Clara (Maginot), Helen (Schreiber), Matilda (Stephen), Alvina (Kammer), and Margaret. Approximately 1925 they moved from their 159.5 acre farm (located east of Casabella subdivision, south of 77th, west of Austin Ave., and north of Lake Hills Road) to 136 Joliet St. In the late thirties Henry and Mary donated the funds for the installation of the stained glass Rose Window over the main altar of St. Michael's Church and for another window on the back west side. Helen (Schreiber) is the last surviving child.



John P. Schweitzer was born November 3, 1894 and died April 4, 1968. Lauretta Schweitzer was born October 3, 1900 and died June 30, 1981. John and Lauretta were married November 3, 1920. Our family: John H. (died January 9, 1963) & Amalia (Shust) (Amalia & Joseph Glenn Hutchins), Sylvester & Majorie (Kipper), Wilma & Ernest Smith, Arthur & Doris (Briner), Vernon & Flora (Mager-Hoy), Richard & Josephine (Huber), Herbert & Margaret (DeBartola), and Mary & Cletus O'Drobinak. Our home was the first home east of Homan School which later became the Tiny Tot Nursery. The building was razed in 1991 to provide additional parking in the front of Homan School. **We children are very proud of our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.**

CANDID CAMERAMAN

The Candid Cameraman of Schererville is Art Schweitzer. Art is also the man who remembers who lived where and when in old Schererville. He is often seen with one camera hanging around his neck and another in his hand. He works tirelessly on taking pictures of Schererville as it is, and of re-photographing old Schererville pictures of how it was. Every town needs an Art Schweitzer and Schererville is fortunate to have the original copy.



Art at a Historical Society Meeting on his 63rd Birthday



Art relaxing with a new camera



Ed and Lola Peifer

Ed & Lola Peifer

In 1930 Edward M. Peifer met Lola M. Brothwell in the Crown Point Square at a band concert. Ed, the son of George and Susan Peifer, was born February 10, 1910 in the family home which still stands on the southwest corner of Joliet and Cline. Lola was born July 19, 1914 to Frank and Ethel Brothwell on their family farm in Ross Township. Ed and Lola were married on August 4, 1934 in St. Michael's Church. Their children are Clarence (1935), Ronald (1937) and identical twin daughters, Jeanette Marie and Janet Mary (1938).

Ed and Lola moved to their present home at 304 E. Joliet in 1937. He worked for Ford Motor Co. from 1930 until 1951 and then drove a school bus for the Dyer School System (late Lake Central) for ten years. He also held a number of side jobs including one at Sauzer's Kiddieland.

Jeanette and Joseph Govert were married on June 6, 1959 and have three children: Joseph (Donna) Govert, Valerie (Thomas) Laskey, and Paula (Richard) Gard. Janet and Norbert Fortener were married on June 6,

1990. She has three children: Daniel (Debbi) Buchler, David Buchler and Robin (Michael) Montagano. Ronald married Judeen Thiel on September 3, 1960 and have three daughters: Denise (Robert) Jansen, Diane Peifer and Lisa (Joseph) Adams. Clarence and Carole Pratt were wed on November 7, 1964, and have two children, Keith and Tammy Peifer.



Grimmers



Leo, Victor, Norbert, Herman, Cecilia (Grimmer) Smith, Susan (Rohrman), Sally (Grimmer) Govert



*Sophia (Koval) Adam, Vickie (Adam) Grimmer, Norbert, Susan (Rohrman) Grimmer Wedding November 24, 1948.
Norb passed away at age 60
November 22, 1979.*



Norbert Grimmer started to repair cars at his mother's home garage at 302 E. Joliet St. around 1937.

Norb was an affiliate member of the Capuchin Seminary and was laid to rest in the Capuchin Robe.

Bill Govert started approx. 1954 with Norb. It's impossible to think what a jam Schererville will be in when Bill retires.



Norb & Richard Bohney started in 1946. Here Norb's talking to his brother Herman.



*Walter Borman, Norb Grimmer
Att. Lowell Enslen, Old Car*



Left to Right: Norbert Jr. (Butch) Grimmer, Katy, Wife Joan (Davis), Peter, Adam, Brian.



Mike & Anna Fagen (1920)



Nick & Eva Fagen (1960)



Bob & Maureen Miller (1981)

ROBERT "BOSCO" MILLER & FAGEN-MILLER

Bob Miller and Maureen Fagen were married in Columbia, Missouri on May 29, 1951. They moved to Highland and lived above the Fagen Funeral Gardens. They had four children: Larry (10-12-52), Jerry (5-17-54), Terri (9-3-58) and Gary (5-24-60). Bob decided to pursue the funeral business and graduated from Worsham College of Mortuary Science in 1956.

Maureen's family was no stranger to the Schererville area. Her grandparents opened the Fagen Funeral Parlor and Furniture Store in 1896 and served the people in the general area. Michael and Anna Fagen had three children, Anthony, Nicholas and Marie. Marie married Roy Hilbrich of Schererville. Nick married Eva Turner in 1929, the same year of the death of Michael, and moved into the Dyer Funeral Home. Nick also opened a branch in Highland and changed the name to Fagen Funeral Gardens in memory of his parents. He ran the business until 1970.

In 1970 Maureen and Bob purchased the business which then became known as Fagen-Miller Funeral Gardens. They also purchased the Royce Funeral Home in Griffith. Their son Larry married and moved to the Griffith home to manage it.

The Ambulance Service portion of the business was turned over to the Miller children on December 31, 1980. Just four months later, April 23, 1981, Bob died suddenly.

The Ambulance Service has grown from four ambulances to a fleet of twenty three. There are three combination ambulance/wheelchair units and nine wheelchair vans. There are now 106 employees. Gary holds the title of CEO, Terri is Office Manager, Jerry is a Paramedic and Larry manages the funeral homes.

Maureen and her children continue to offer the personal touch which was established in 1896, both in the Funeral and the Ambulance Services.



*The Millers
Gary, Maureen, Terri Webb, Larry,
Jerry*

The Bohlings



Nicholas & Elizabeth (Kolling) Bohling

Nicholas Bohling, born in 1876, and Elizabeth Kolling, born in 1883, were married in St. Michael's first church building on February 26, 1908. Their children were Ervin, born November 14, 1910, and Walter, born June 28, 1912. Their first child, Sylvester, died as an infant. Nick and Liz were farmers and lived on the Bohling homestead. The house consisted of a two-story farm house with a one-room, school house attached. The school house was originally located in a pasture across the road. This farm house still exists today at 7221 West 87th Avenue, Crown Point, formerly called Bohling Road. The farm consisted of 182 acres, known as East Oak Farm, named by Nicholas because it was east of Cline Avenue and had many oak trees on the property. In 1956, High Point Acres Subdivision, which was part of the farm, got its name by being the highest point of land in Lake County, Indiana. Another section of the farm is now known as Bohling's East Oak Estates.

Ervin (Pinsky) Bohling married Mary Adams on August 26, 1950. They owned the Town House Restaurant at 16 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, until January of 1966. They then built a home at 433 Pontiac Road, Schererville, where Pinsky now resides. Pinsky was a heavy equipment operator for Southeastern Construction and has been a member of the Operating Engineer Union, Local 150, for 45 years. Mary passed away May 3, 1987.



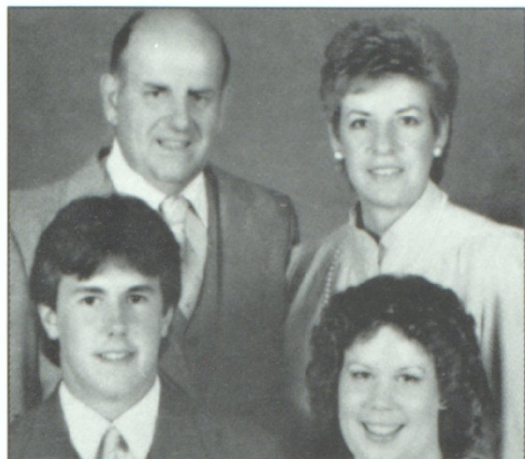
Ervin (Pinsky) & Mary (Adams) Bohling



*Walter & Donnabelle
(Brugh) Bohling*

Walter (Wally) Bohling married Donnabelle Brugh on September 5, 1935, at St. Michael Church in Schererville. They resided on the Bohling homestead. They had three sons, Donald, Robert, and Kenneth, and one daughter, Donna Sue. Wally was a farmer and at the time of his death, January 16, 1958, was employed at Combustion Engineering. Donnabelle was a precinct committee woman for St. John Township and very active in St. Michael Church. She was employed at the Lake Central High School Cafeteria. She passed away January 7, 1967.

Donald Bohling, born August 3, 1937, married Marie Burnau on September 13, 1959, and was living in Hebron at the time of his death, August 24, 1983. They had three children, Donald Jr., born September 13, 1960, Deborah, born June 7, 1962, and Daryl, born November 24, 1966.



Robert & Elaine Bohling with children Michael & Bonnie

Robert Bohling, born May 23, 1939, married Elaine on September 8, 1962. They have two children, Bonnie, born April 28, 1966, and Michael, born June 21, 1970. Bob farmed and worked at Schererville Lumber for 16 years. He is now employed at Dyer Vault Company in Dyer. Elaine is a bus driver for the Lake Central School Corporation. They both enjoy making arts and crafts, going to the Covered Bridge Festival every fall, and spending time with their two grandchildren.

Kenneth Bohling, born September 16, 1941, graduated from St. Michael School in 1955 and Dyer Central High School in 1959. Bob and Ken farmed the Bohling homestead until 1967. Ken co-founded Bohling and Doffin Concrete Construction Co., Inc. in 1968. Ken was instrumental in developing the homestead into Bohling's East Oak Estates and Kimberly Acres, 1820 Austin Ave., Schererville, where he and his family now reside. Ken is presently the owner of Bohling Concrete Inc., which is in its 25th year of business.



Ken & Alice (Gordon) Bohling with children Kristen, Mark & Kimberly

Ken married Alice Gordon on March 22, 1980, at St. Michael Church in Schererville. They have three children, Kimberly, born March 23, 1981, Mark, born July 2, 1984, and Kristen, born November 7, 1989. Ken and Alice are very active members of St. Michael Church and their children attend St. Michael School.

Donna Sue Bohling, born December 30, 1949, married David Forsythe on January 30, 1970. They have one daughter, Julie, born on July 17, 1976. They currently reside in Dyer, Indiana.



New Address 7221 W. 87th Ave., Old Address 7128 W. 87th Ave.

Left side of this home was a one room school house which was across the road to the north and as the printing of this book, there is an indent in the grass approximately 25 feet sq. of the old foundation.



Minuteman Press is proud to have printed the "History of the Crossroads", Schererville's 125th Anniversary Book. All filmwork, printing and assembly of this book was done by skilled Minuteman Press personnel in our new, 3200 square foot facility in Schererville.

As we went about producing this book, we became more aware of the impressive growth and development that Schererville has achieved in its past history. We also grew more appreciative of our own opportunity to participate in the continuing history of Schererville, in what we believe to be, perhaps, the most exciting phase of this history, the present.

It is truly a privilege to be part of this growing community, and we want to thank the people and business community of Schererville, as well as the entire tri-town area, for the success we've experienced in our own 8 year history.

From all of us at Minuteman Press, thank you . . .

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The Michael Kuhn Family

The children of Michael and Leona (Schiesser) Kuhn: Mel, Norman (Joyce), Ann (Robert) Ayersman, Mary (William) Marsh and Charles (Linda) are very proud of our family history in Schererville.

Our father, Michael, was a town board member, fireman, and Justice of the Peace. Our grandfathers, Peter (Anna Thomas) Kuhn born March 19, 1857, and Bartholomew (Cecelia Franz) Schiesser born January 26, 1864, were among the earliest settlers of the area and founding fathers of St. Michaels Church.

Our home still stands at 44 W. Joliet Street. The picture below was taken there on Easter, 1945.



The Norris Family

Charles and Beverly Norris moved to 1713



Vernon Ave. in Schererville from Montezuma, IN in 1956. In 1962 they moved to 137 E. Wilhelm Street, the home originally built by George and Elizabeth Gard. They raised five daughters, Janice Hamstra, Mitzie Waterstraat, Connie Waterstraat, Sharon Nance and Susan Raab. The photos show the Norris family celebrating Schererville's Centennial in 1966. Beverly and Susan were the winners in the contest for "most original" type of dress worn 100 years earlier. Charles passed away in 1975. Beverly still resides in the "Gard" home and is employed by the Town of Schererville. There are ten grandchildren in the family.

JAMES J. DINGES CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT INC.



Upper L. Brock Fuhrman
Upper R. James Dinges
Lower L. Jerry Keilman
Lower R. Joseph Govert

**We would like to thank Schererville
& the area for 35 years of business
success.**



Top Row Left to Right: Jay Dinges, Karen (Nemergut) Dinges, Sandi Dinges, Ted Powers, Chris (Dinges) Powers. Bottom Left to Right: Jim Dinges, Kathy (Govert) Dinges, Pat (Conte) Dinges, Brian Dinges, Babies: Phillip, Jacqueline, Renee, Peter.



Nicholas and Theresa (Gard) Kuhn



Gards Store with gas pump.

The children of Nicholas and Theresa are Eugene who is married to Margaret (Slifer). Eugene has three children, Kenneth, Ronald and Kathy. Barbara is married to Richard St. Martin and has four children, Debra, Gordon, Gary and Diane. James is married to Joan (Kuss). They have three children, Jeffery, Janet and John. As of 1993 there are nine great-grandchildren.

Nick Kuhn Family

Nicholas Kuhn was the eighth of twelve children, born May 27, 1898 to Peter and Anna (Thomas) Kuhn. He was a railroader and worked for the E.J. & E. at Barrington, IL, Gary, Chicago Heights, IL and Hartsdale.

Nick also served four terms as a member of the St. John Township Advisory Board. He enjoyed hunting and was a member of the Lake County Fox Hunters Club.

Theresa was the oldest of six children, born September 13, 1904 to George and Elizabeth (Bieker) Gard. Much of her childhood was spent working in Gard's General Store which was owned by her father. Theresa was an avid Bingo player, playing five or six nights a week. Nicholas and Theresa were married October 26, 1929 at St. Michaels Church. They were the parents of three children, Eugene, Barbara and James. They celebrated sixty years of marriage in 1989.

Nicholas passed away January 8th, 1990 and Theresa passed away December 24th, 1990. They resided at 128 Wilhelm St.



Kuhn Farm was located at 245 Le Jardin.



The children of Nicholas and Theresa.



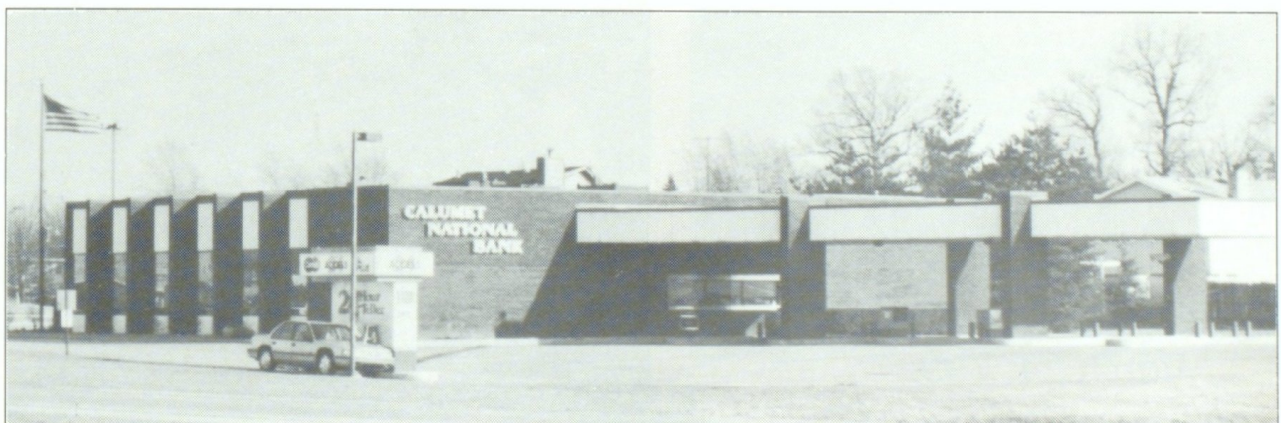
Calumet National Bank – Schererville Office



Calumet National Bank, founded in 1933, opened its office in downtown Schererville on September 23, 1970. Located on "Old Route 30." This office served our Schererville area customers' needs for about 10 years.

Pictured (left to right) at the 1970 ribbon cutting ceremony: Ted Thomas, Marketing Director, Calumet National Bank; Edna Fane, Schererville Womens Club; Mary Kaeser, Post Mistress; Dan Jordan, Jordan Realty; Richard Krame, Town Board President; Kay Stuhlmacher, Clerk/Treasurer; Edward Meyer, President, Calumet National Bank; Brian Bowron, Manager, Schererville Office.

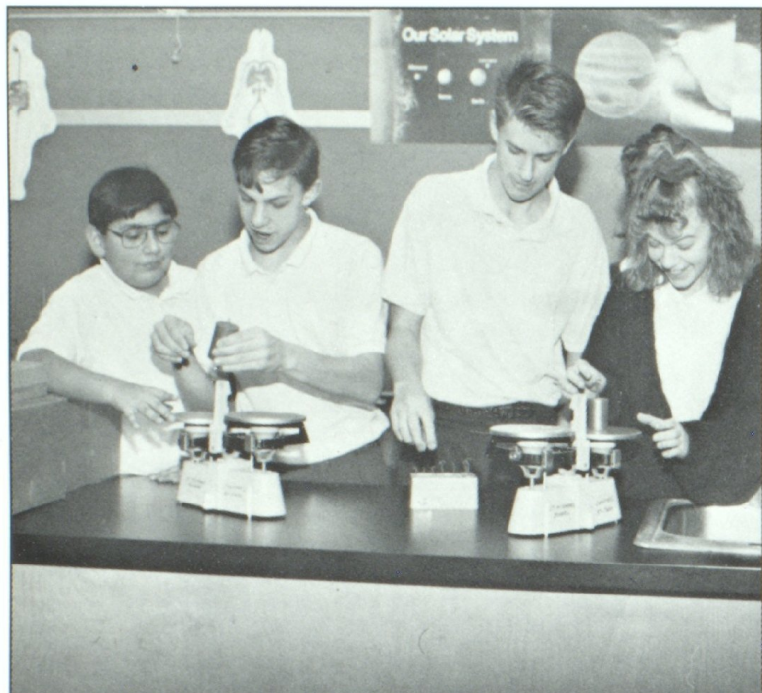
In 1979 we moved to this modern facility built on Route 30 and Robinhood Blvd. to accommodate the Town of Schererville's and Calumet National Banks' growing needs. This facility is also home to Calumet National Banks Mortgage Loan Department. The Schererville Office is a full service facility that offers 24-hour drive-up ATM service and drive-up teller service from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. on weekdays.





ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL SCHOOL FOUNDATION

*Tradition and Care . . .
A Partnership of Success*



*Left to right: Adam Hamernik, Larry Briski,
Bryan Babinec and Melissa Trzupek.*

St. Michael the Archangel School Foundation serves St. Michael School and the community of Schererville. Its purpose is to ensure a Catholic educational choice for the members of St. Michael Parish as well as the town of Schererville. St. Michael School is a part of the town's heritage and is proud to add its over 100 years of tradition to the spirit of Schererville. Additional information regarding St. Michael School is contained throughout this book.

Founding Board of Directors

Front Row: Kenneth Bohling,
Donna Velez,
Sr. Joyce Shanabarger,
Howard Spicer

Back Row: Nancy Beggs,
Frank Gard,
Fr. Patrick Connolly,
Donald Doffin

*Founded and Incorporated
March 24, 1992*



FIRST CHURCH

Saint Michael The Archangel

A priceless heritage that the Catholic Schererville pioneers brought from their German homelands was their deep religious faith. Lacking a church building of their own, the early settlers of this region were forced to travel to St. John, Turkey Creek, Crown Point or Dyer to attend church. Bad roads, inclement weather and primitive means of transportation made their efforts all the more difficult.

In 1873, the residents presented a petition, written by Mrs. Nicolaus (Francisca) Scherer, to Bishop Dwenger of Fort Wayne. It asked for the establishment of a parish in Schererville. The bishop was somewhat reluctant to grant this. However, the settlers continually stressed how difficult it was for their children to receive adequate religious instructions. After he gave his consent, a building committee composed of Nicolaus Scherer, Bernard and Henry Schulte, Joseph Newmann, John Austgen, Jr., Nicolaus Schutz, Matthias Miller and John Seberger supervised the collection of funds and the erection of the church. Donations were solicited as far away as Chicago. The town's founder, Nicolaus Scherer, who had emigrated from Scheuren, Rhine Province about 1845, donated 4 1/2 acres for the church and cemetery purposes. Soon a white frame church, 45' x 95', topped by a 100' spire, stood on the site. The structure, dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel, was solemnly blessed by Bishop Dwenger on September 29, 1874. The total cost was approximately \$5,000.

Fr. Meissner of Crown Point had served as advisor to the church building committee. Both he and Fr. Baumgartner of Turkey Creek helped the parish in its infancy. The latter administered the first baptism recorded in the parish archives, that of Nicolaus Schutz, son of Mathias and Mary (Helfen) Schutz on October 11, 1874. He also officiated at the first funeral, that of Nicolaus Kobe on November 9, 1874. The first wedding, uniting Adam Schubert and Catharina Stephan, took place on January 7, 1875. It was witnessed by Rev. Gottfried Kueng who was the first pastor.

Having built the church, the eighty family parish embarked upon a new project in 1875. Although "building material was high and the time bad," a rectory, costing \$1,800, was erected near the southeast corner of the church. In October 1876, after serving the parish for nearly two years, Fr. Kueng resigned and returned to his native Tyrol, Austria. Although a pious and learned man, he found the financial administration of the debt-laden parish too heavy a burden.

The parish was without a regular pastor until February 1887, when Rev. John H. Bathe, a newly-ordained priest, received the appointment. He remained only five months. During his short stay, he impressed all by both his zeal in instructing the



children and by his efforts to reduce the parish debt. His successor was Rev. Francis Xavier Deimel, who was transferred from St. Martin's Parish in Hanover Center. Fr. Deimel reduced the debt, purchased the two bells that are still being used and sponsored the first parish mission. Hampered by bad health, he entered the Alexian Hospital in St. Louis in 1879. When he realized that his illness was terminal, he submitted his resignation to the bishop in 1881. He died November 11, 1881. His successor was appointed by Bishop Dwenger on May 28, 1881. Like Fr. Deimel, the new pastor was transferred from Hanover Center. However, unlike Fr. Deimel, this new pastor was to lead the Schererville flock for some 48 years. He was to become one of the most remarkable and one of the best loved figures in Schererville history. His name was Rev. William Berg.

The New Pastor - Fr. Berg

Fr. Berg preached his first sermon to his new congregation on Trinity Sunday. He later remarked that his commentary on the words of the Gospel, "I am with you all days to the end of the world", seemed to be almost prophetic for his own stay. At the time of his arrival, the transferred priest found a village of about 30 houses and a farm parish of about



Rt. Rev. Monsignor William Berg

80 families. The congregation was burdened with a debt of \$2,350 and its notes called for a usurious 10% interest rate. After a short period of reserve and "watchful waiting" Fr. Berg called a parish meeting to devise ways of reducing the crushing debt. He told the assembly that he was in no way interested in the dissensions and disagreements of the past, but was looking forward to the future. Therefore, he would visit each home, gather advice and take up a collection. His personal efforts netted over \$1,600, a

huge sum in those days. The small remaining debt was completely canceled in 1889.

The parish prospered under its new pastor. His firm leadership, coupled with his friendly, outgoing nature, endeared him to all. Under his direction, many improvements were made in the Church. In 1886, a new black and white altar, made of walnut and some 23 feet tall, was erected. It was a gift of Nicholas Maas. Three years later, various benefactors donated 10 new church windows. In 1893, the church was replastered and decorated and a basement was dug to install a new hot air heating system. The latter replaced the unsightly stoves in the church and was guaranteed to keep the edifice at 60 degrees even in the "greatest cold." Four years later, the parish obtained an organ that was formerly used at the old Alexian Hospital in Chicago.

Parish societies also prospered. The first established was the Altar Society. Its president for over 25 years was Mrs. Francisca Scherer. The men of the parish were served by the St. Michael's Men's Society and the St. Matthias Court of Catholic Order of Foresters. The latter was begun in 1889 and embraced some fifty members. Its meeting each third Wednesday of the month also served as a monthly social event. The young Women's Sodality was organized in 1896. The Apostleship of Prayer was canonically erected in 1888 with some 150 members.

Intermingled with the accomplishments of the country parish were the inevitable disappointments and tragedies. Life was not easy at that time. Children were often stricken by fatal diseases, especially diphtheria and the flu. The parish records give silent, yet eloquent testimony to the heartbreak of many parents who lost two, three and even four children during epidemics. Of the 165 recorded deaths in the parish between 1874 and 1890, 85 were children under twelve. Most of the dead, both children and adults, found their final rest in the parish cemetery within the shadow of the church's tower. Fr. Berg, aided by his parishioners, had landscaped both it and the surrounding church grounds, planting shade trees and bushes, erecting shrines, coaxing forth followers from the sandy soil. On September 27, 1895, Bishop Rademacher formally blessed the cemetery. Four years later, after the completion of a mission by two Franciscan Fathers, a mission cross was erected in the middle of "God's Acre," as the faithful called the burial grounds.

The cemetery also played an indirect part in the single most tragic event in the parish history. Fr. Berg, on entering the church for morning Mass on September 27, 1893, found that the Ciborium with the Sacred Hosts had been stolen. Closer examination revealed that the altar cross and missal were also missing. Thoroughly alarmed, he and others continued the investigation. They found that vandals had also smashed and destroyed over a thousand dollars of tombstones. The remnants of the ciborium, missal and cross were finally found near a fresh fire on the sand hill west of the

cemetery. The fire had been diabolically kindled with the wooden crosses marking the graves of the innocent dead children of the parish. For many years the parish observed the memory of this sad occasion with a day of penance.

Parish School Established

One of the greatest desires of Fr. Berg was to establish a parish school. While at Hanover Center, he had successfully founded the second parochial school in Lake County. Crown Point was the first in the county. However, conditions were somewhat different in Schererville. Many of the children attended the local village school while others, living on outlying farms up to four miles from the church, went to schools closer to their homes.

In 1886, Fr. Berg obtained two Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart from Joliet to teach in the village "kleine Schule," or lower grades. The first nuns were Sisters Elizabeth and Josephine. Sr. Stanislaus was the first housekeeper and Sr. Bernadine came later also serving the community with home nursing. When the original group of two nuns came, they were lodged in two upstairs rooms rented from Nicolaus Scherer. In 1881, the parish purchased a lot near the church and converted a 16 x 20 foot barn into the first Sisters house. The lot cost \$75 and the house was \$386. In time two more rooms were added to the house which was used as a convent until the new residence was built next to it in 1914. The structure was then sold to Michael Steuer. The building, remodeled several times, still stands at 19 E. Wilhelm Street.

Until 1891, the pastor freely gave religious instructions in the village school. However, when this practice was no longer allowed, it became imperative to obtain some sort of building on the parish grounds for educational purposes. To satisfy the need, in 1893, the parish purchased, for \$75, a 20 x 24 foot section of the old public school and moved it north of the cemetery. The cost of the completed structure, including moving and the foundation, was \$186. The village school children then came up from the public school after lunch hour for religious instruction and then returned to the public school. Those attending the outlying schools also had instructions, though less frequent. All were expected to attend, if possible, the Sunday afternoon catechism sessions in the church. Parents were also invited to be present at the latter.

On the last Sunday of June 1900, the pastor announced to his congregation that the time had come for a parochial school. In spite of the hard times, the house collection to finance an addition to the white frame school building proved successful. The addition, costing \$1,200, afforded the parish two adequate rooms. The new school year opened September 16, 1900, a day after the blessing of the building. The first teacher was Sr. Rosalia. She had 42 older pupils occupying one classroom. The younger students remained in the public schools. Sr. Rosalia died in 1901 and was succeeded by Sr.

Germana (Germaine), who greeted the 55 pupils in September of 1901. In 1902, the second room was opened for the younger children. With an constantly growing enrollment, two additional classrooms were added in 1908. This was made possible by the erection of an L-shaped addition which extended north from the existing school building.

The great oak that stood in the school ground into the 1970's provided a focal point for many of the recess games. Most classes were conducted in English. Naturally, German was also taught, reflecting the heritage of the pioneers. In fact, many of the pupils spoke English at school and German in their homes. Gradually German diminished in the classroom. World War I provided its death blow. About this same time, Fr. Berg gradually introduced English sermons into Church services. He was motivated both by the desire to be of service to several non-German speaking parishioners and by the sincere wish to adapt thoroughly to the customs of his beloved adopted country.

St. Michael's Into The Twentieth Century

The parish of St. Michael celebrated the Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee of Fr. Berg on May 25, 1902. The jubilarian, born in the Trier district of Germany, had grown up during the Kulturkampf period of Church-State difficulties. He was ordained in 1877 by the only non-imprisoned bishop in all Prussia and had to celebrate his first Mass behind closed doors without relatives, friends or even his parents in attendance. One month after his ordination, he embarked at Rotterdam for America, where he was received into the Fort Wayne Diocese. His first four years were spent at Hanover Center and the remainder of his priestly days were devoted to his flock at Schererville.

The parishioners were determined that the jubilee would not pass by unnoticed. Thus, the entire congregation joined their pastor in the prayerful thanksgiving celebration. A special jubilee booklet, *Geschichte der St. Michael's Gemeinde*, authored by Rev. Balthasar Biegel, a former pupil of the jubilarian at Hanover Center, was published to commemorate the occasion. Among other things, the writer noted that the parish school was Fr. Berg's "pride and joy and he never feels more happy than when he can be with his children."

Playing a prominent part in the celebration were the parish councilmen or trustees. They were Bernard Schulte, John Grimmer, Matthias Helfen and Nicholas Scherer. Henry Schulte, the first trustee of the parish, was also able to extend his congratulations. Members of the parish choir providing the festive music were Nicholas Schafer, John Reiplinger, Michael Steuer, Matthias Schutz, John Weis, Anna Schulte, Susanna Thiel, Elizabeth Steuer, Katharina Risch, Veronica Hag, Elizabeth Schafer, Katharine Kuhn, Veronica and Mathilde Austgen, Susanna Steuer and Sophia Reiplinger.

The following family names appeared on the



parish roll at that event: Adler, Austgen, Backe, Berwanger, Beiriger, Bicker, Braun, Bone, Cope, Doffin, Dub, Erb, Gerlach, Getzinger, Govert, Grimmer, Hart, Harkenrider, Heil, Helfen, Hag, Hilbrich, Homan, Jansen, Jung, Kerner, Kolling, Kuhn, Lustig, Lang, Laible, Lepper, Leinen, Mager, Margraf, Maas, Mang, Miller, Neuman, Neudorf, Osweiler, Peiper, Pinter, Reder, Reiplinger, Risch, Rohrmann, Reitmann, Scherer, Schiesser, Schiessle, Schubert, Schulte, Schilling, Seberger, Scholl, Schaefer, Schmitt, Schuetz, Schweitzer, Schmal, Stephen, Steuer, Spitz, Theis, Thomas, Thiel, Treinen, Weis, Wein, Wehner and Wurtz.

One year after the Jubilee, Fr. Berg was appointed dean of the Hammond district by Bishop Alerding. This honor brought with it the added responsibility of representing the bishop in this particular region of the Fort Wayne Diocese.

The parish grew slowly. Almost all the members knew everyone else and a great many were related. Sunday Mass and Vespers gave them an opportunity to visit with each other as well as join in the social worship of God. The normal means of church support was Pew Rent, a custom that was discontinued only in the fifties. Because of the practice, people faithfully occupied the same family seat each Sunday or feastday. Two annual highlights in the Church calendar were the Forty Hours devotion and the Corpus Christi outdoor procession. The former took place around the patronal feast of the parish in September. The latter, held in May or June, wended its way to the outdoor shrines which were decorated by willing volunteers. Often the fickle, early summer weather played havoc with the best laid plans. A particularly beautiful shrine on the property, the Lourdes Grotto, was constructed around 1904.

Several building projects were undertaken by the parish immediately before the First World War. In 1912, the rectory was enlarged and remodeled at a cost of \$3,000. Two years later, a new \$6,000 convent was built. Finally, in 1916, a new brick school was erected at a cost of \$34,000. It was torn down in 1984 to make room for the current parish hall/gymnasium.

On June 22, 1913, the parish joined with Rev. Charles Scholl in celebrating his First Solemn Mass. He was the first and only native son of the parish to be ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Berg's brother, John, had offered his First Mass at St. Michael's in 1889, but he did so because of his relationship to the pastor. On May 26, 1918, Rev. Fred Seberger also celebrated his First Solemn Mass at the local parish. Although he was not a native, almost all of his relatives were living in this region. The young priest briefly served in the diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska, before falling a victim of the flu. He passed away in December 1918.

The Twenties

Schererville, like towns and villages throughout America, was glad to return to "normalcy" after the

armistice of November 11, 1918. It had supported the war effort of the Allies during the World War. Many of its young men were called into service and a few made the supreme sacrifice.



In front of St. Michael's on November 7, 1928 with Helen Halfman Kuntz, Josephine Schutz Loehmer, Elizabeth Schubert Bieklefeld, Mary Mager Wehner, Dorothy Govert Schiesser, Catherine Reder Brothau and Katherine Schweitzer Schiesser.

The school, now housed in its new building, prospered and provided Fr. Berg with increased delight in his golden years. He established a two-year commercial course in 1925 that enabled many of the students to receive ten years of formal education. The course was abandoned in 1933. One of the highlights of the school's extracurricular events was the annual Thanksgiving parade. Led by two older pupils holding prize turkeys, the children marched up and down the streets of Schererville. Each carried a gift of food. The parade ended in front of the Sisters' convent and the rectory. Here, the children serenaded their teachers and pastor before presenting them with their Thanksgiving presents. The parade finally had to be abandoned when increased traffic made it unsafe. Such is the price of progress! (Thought expressed in 1966)

The parish has always been blessed with self-sacrificing men who helped to maintain the property and buildings. Pupils of the twenties and thirties fondly recall Joseph Peter Risch, who preached many a wordless sermon by his faithfulness in ringing the Angelus and caring for parish property. Although small in stature, "Schneider," as he was familiarly known used his powerful voice on more than one occasion to keep the mischievous schoolboys in order. Peter Schmidt had been an earlier janitor, helping Fr. Berg until approximately 1915. He is especially remembered for his care of the yard and the development of the beauty of the church grounds. Schmidt was succeeded by John Reiplinger,

who preceded Risch. Another faithful custodian who served the parish with loving care was Peter Schweitzer. He assumed this responsibility after Risch. The role of "major domo" was filled by Frank Gard at the time of the Centennial. After Frank came Bob Keilman who does the dedicated work of taking care of everything seven days a week. It will take two people to fill Bob's shoes when he retires.



Interesting picture showing shrine and water tower.

A major outdoor improvement during the early twenties was the erection of the altar on Calvary. Mrs. Nicolaus Scherer had willed the old "sandpit" to the parish. It was a parcel of ground of some eighteen lots. Perhaps some of the young people had mixed feelings about the new project. The land had provided many of them with an ideal place for sledding, hunting rabbits and playing ball. However, Fr. Berg wished to extend the cemetery, but above all, it is reported that he wished to build the shrine on the spot where the infamous crime against the Holy Eucharist was committed in 1893. Thus, under the direction of Brothers Fridolin and Paul, Divine Word Brothers from Techny, Illinois, the men of the parish gradually transformed the 20 foot cone-shaped hill into a fitting remembrance of Christ's death. Stations of the Cross designed by the brothers encircle the hill. The first priest buried on Calvary was Fr. John Berg, who died on June 22, 1927. A grotto, erected north of Calvary, depicting the Agony in the Garden, was dedicated to his memory. A complementary grotto to the south honors Christ's Resurrection.

Fr. Berg celebrated his Golden Sacerdotal Jubilee on May 29, 1927. In fitting tribute, Bishop John Francis Noll elevated the humble pastor to the rank of a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. The entire parish rejoiced over the well-merited honor bestowed upon him. A special Jubilee Mass was offered and a festive celebration, complete

with a band led by Bernard Young, took place near the Lourdes Shrine.

At the time of the jubilee, the Girls' Choir, under the direction of Sr. Adolphine, consisted of the following members: Mathilda and Lucille Thiel, Mary Mager, Mary and Frances Govert, Mabel Hilbrich, Dorothy Schweitzer, Marcella Grimmer, Mary Kaiser, Clara Doctor, Bertha Bohnery, Elenora Peifer and Cecilia Mager. The parish trustees were Nick Schafer, Bartel Schiesser, Peter Kuhn, and Peter Schweitzer of Schererville and J.N. Helfen and N. Minninger of Griffith. Old settlers who were specially honored in the jubilee booklet included N. Schafer, J. Treinen, K. Schubbert, N. Rohrman, J. Maas, and J. Scholl.

Pioneer women were Mrs. C. Cope, F. Thiel, K. Erb, A.M. Theis, A. Schafer and M. Stephen. Many current parishioners will enjoy seeing the names of their relatives who were present and noted at this occasion.

Two serious problems next confronted the parish. One was the need for a new church. The old white frame church had served well for fifty years, but was no longer considered adequate. The congregation had a substantial building fund and the pastor had expressed his hope that his successor would actually take charge of the project. Nevertheless, Charles L. Wallace, an architect from Joliet, Illinois, was asked to draw up plans for a new edifice. Upon obtaining a satisfactory sketch, the parish commissioned John A. Mager, whose home still stands on the southeast corner of Joliet and Anna Street, to be the general contractor. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on October 25, 1927. On May 20, 1928, the cornerstone was set in place.

The second problem concerned the pastoral care of the Catholic population in Griffith. Many of them felt that the time had come for the establishment of an independent parish there. Msgr. Berg, however, felt that the time was not yet opportune for such a move, especially since the new larger church was under construction. Sympathetic to their desire that a Catholic school be located in their town, he proposed the establishment of a branch school, staffed by the Sisters from Schererville. Bishop Noll studied the various suggestions and finally decided that the future growth potential warranted the founding of a new independent parish. Thus, St. Mary Parish, Griffith, received its first pastor, Rev. Joseph Suelzer, and had its first services in July 1928. A sizable percentage of its original eighty members were former parishioners of St. Michael Parish.

One of the principal ways that the parish employed to raise money was its traditional Labor Day weekend homecoming picnic. The taste-tempting chicken dinners served by the women of the parish were famous throughout the region. To help defray the cost of the construction of the church, the parishioners sought to make the annual event the biggest ever in 1929. Success crowned the efforts; the festival raised nearly \$5,000.

The job of the congregation soon turned to sorrow

when it learned the startling news of the sudden death of its pastor. On September 4, 1929, Msgr. Berg was fatally stricken while concluding his weekday Mass. A young assistant from St. Joseph Parish in Hammond, Rev. Leo Hildebrandt, was sent to the parish to organize the funeral and take care of any outstanding parish matters.

The new church, begun under the supervision of the dead priest, was not far enough advanced to permit its usage for his funeral. Thus, the large gathering of priests recited the traditional Office of the Dead for their departed confrere in the old church which had been moved just west of its former site during building operations. After the completion of the Office, the solemn procession of clergy and pallbearers carried the coffin through the assembled congregation to Mount Calvary. Bishop Noll offered the Solemn Requiem Pontifical Mass on Mount Calvary. The body was buried on Calvary close to that of his priest brother, John. Thus was fulfilled the request of Msgr. Berg who had stated at his Golden Jubilee: "I am here for 46 years, and at the end of the world, I hope to rise from the grave in the midst of my good Schererville people."

Fr. Hildebrandt then administered the parish for one month. A group of parishioners petitioned the bishop to appoint this young, capable priest as their pastor. The bishop, however, chose Rev. Peter A. Biegel and appointed him on October 4, 1929. Fr. Hildebrandt had to wait just three years to get his own parish. He was appointed pastor of St. Mary's in Griffith and remained there until his death in the 70's.

Pastorate of Fr. Biegel

Father Biegel was, in many senses, the antithesis of Fr. Berg. Whereas the former pastor had been outgoing, cheerful and a lover of people, the new pastor was more introverted, reserved and even gave the appearance of being somewhat shy or aloof. He was a handsome, well-postured man whose well-formed features were crowned with striking, wavy hair. He was known to enjoy a good game of cards, but most of all he was remembered for his holiness.

What sort of parish did this new priest find himself with? According to his first report, dated December 31, 1929, the parish was composed of 90 families, numbering approximately 400 persons. The parish school, covering a ten year span, enrolled 70 boys and 54 girls and had four sisters as teachers. Just four pupils of the parish attended public grade school and six went to public high school. During 1929, there were seven baptisms, ten marriages, sixteen first communions and nine deaths. Financially, the parish had a debt of \$32,000 on its new church. The tragic Black October 1929 stock market crash coincided with the new pastor's appointment. Thus, his tenure was complicated by the great depression of the thirties.

The new church was solemnly dedicated on May 18, 1930. The total expenditure, including the furnishings and the pipe organ was just over



Fr. Biegel's house which sat about 10 feet southeast of the rear of St. Michael's Church.

\$97,000. Celebrant of the ten o'clock dedication Mass was Msgr. Balthazar Biegel, brother of the pastor and a former pupil of Fr. Berg. The Catholic publication, *Our Sunday Visitor*, reported the "new building is pure Romanesque style, and is built of concrete, pressed brick, and trimmed with stone." The original plans for the sanctuary called for a small space between the altar and communion rail and proved unrealistic. Thus, in its construction, the floor area was enlarged, somewhat altering the overall architectural design. The building measures 125 feet in length and 47 feet in width in the nave and 73 feet in the transept. The ceiling towers 37 feet above the floor and the church spire rose some



Father Biegel's 50th Anniversary. From left to right: Joseph Homan, Peter Schweitzer, Rev. Peter Biegel, Michael Seberger, and Nicholas Rohrman.

116 feet into the sky. The seating capacity, listed as approximately 500, was not realized for many years. No pews were placed in the transepts, nor did pews originally extend to the rear of the church.

The committee of councilmen, Nicholas Schafer, Peter Schweitzer, Peter Kuhn, Bartel Schiesser, J.J. Reiplinger and A.A. Kaiser, reported that the net total

expenditure for the new church and its furnishings had been slightly over \$97,000. Included in this was the new pipe organ, purchased from Hinnert Organ Co., for 4,430. In addition to John A. Mager, other Schererville residents who were contracted to do work on the church included J.W. Risch and W.G. Austgen, electrical wiring and inspection; J.H. Thiel, varnishing and painting; Peter Cope and Peter Schweitzer, painting.

The first child baptized in the new church was Richard Joseph Govert, son of Alfred and Isabella (Britton) Govert. Sponsors during the April 13, 1930, ceremony were Joseph Britton and Dorothy Govert. The first wedding took place on April 26, 1930. It united Alphonse Fetsch and Marie Seberger. Their witnesses were Edward Fetsch and Mrs. Sylvester Schreiber. Claiming the honor of serving the first Mass said in the church were altarboys Al Stephen and Art Peifer.

The debt, coupled with the crippling depression curtailed any large building projects during the thirties. The parish made slow but steady growth as new families moved into the area. Thus the parish records show 117 families and 520 people in 1935 and 134 families and 585 people in 1940. One census taker in 1940 penned the caustic comment: "It was discovered that many families moving into this district during the past three or four years are very indifferent and show very little interest in church or school." Nick Rohrman and William Schiesser were chosen to fill vacancies in the parish council.

In 1933, the old white frame schoolhouse was sold to Nick Schaefer for \$250. He dismantled it and used

some of its lumber in building new homes at 128 E. Wilhelm Street and 224 E. Wilhelm Street. Very little was wasted in those days. Those homes still stand today.

On December 8, 1942, a year after Pearl Harbor, the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was dedicated in memory of William M. Govert who was a long-time resident and town employee of Schererville. He was murdered by a disgruntled subordinate town worker.

One war casualty was the annual Labor Weekend picnic. Travel restrictions, shortages and other factors all contributed to the decision to cancel the event in 1942. In addition, the financial need was less imperative because the parish became virtually debt free that same year. The church budget showed an income of \$3,008 from pew rent and \$2,761 from Sunday collections. This was the first year since the beginning of the depression that the combined ordinary church accounts surpassed the five thousand dollar mark.

Post War Expansion

The end of the War in 1945 singled the beginning of a period of expansion for the area and the parish. The parish numbered 140 families in 1947. Yet, that year's "baby boom" resulted in 40 baptisms, over double the normal number. The 1950 census showed 183 families on the parish rolls, numbering 797 parishioners. The parish school was bulging with approximately 190 pupils. Sr. Teresita was principal and had held the position since 1946. Among other teachers, Srs. Marilyn, Mercedes, Mariella, Evangeline, Elizabeth Marie and Rose



St. Michael's with its first addition.



Angela, are still remembered by some of their pupils.

The church was decorated in 1948 and, in 1952 a ten-thousand dollar expenditure was made to complete the excavation of the church basement.

By 1953-54 there was not enough classroom space to accommodate the following year's projected enrollment. Although Fr. Biegel was reluctant to plunge the parish into a large debt, permission to build a school addition was sought from Archbishop Noll. Upon obtaining consent, the parish hired the Roy Clark Construction Company of East Chicago to draw up the plans. A building committee headed by Al Peifer and a finance committee chaired by Harry Rohrman were organized. Ground was broken on July 11, 1954.

The building consisted of four classrooms, 28 1/2 x 28 feet with other facilities including a principal's office. Total cost was \$75,000. The new facility was first used in February, 1955.

Additional nuns began to arrive and an enlargement of the convent was begun in September, 1956. A basement, a study room and four added bedrooms were added at a cost of \$34,000.

The first lay teacher was Mrs. Michael Dermody of Dyer who was employed for the 1954-55 school year. The first male teacher was Cletus O'Drobinak who began his four year span in 1958.

One casualty of the new construction was the familiar statue and fountain of St. Michael. Progress had claimed another landmark. On the positive side, a discontinued parish activity was resumed in 1955—the annual parish festival. Terrific, dedicated leadership of the parish festivals have insured their success. Names like Frank Gard, Don Doffin and Rob Guetzloff have been or are the chairmen of this very successful annual event in August.

The Rev. William Peil was assigned as an assistant on June 8, 1956. He resided at Hoosier Boys Town.

On June 9, 1958, Fr. Biegel was designated as Pastor Emeritus and a former Army chaplain, Rev. Timothy F. Doody, was appointed administrator. His Irish charm and sincere interest in people quickly endeared him to the parishioners.

Fr. Biegel continued to live in the rectory in semi-retirement. The Golden Priestly Jubilee of Fr. Biegel was celebrated on June 14, 1959. Bishop Andrew G. Grutka of Gary offered a Pontifical High Mass in his honor. The following March 24 Fr. Biegel passed away. Like Fr. Berg, before him, he was buried on Calvary.

A new rectory was constructed at the corner of Wilhelm and Anna Streets at a cost of \$20,000. It was first occupied by Fr. Doody on December 23, 1958. Fr. Biegel had continued to live in the old rectory until his death and shortly afterwards the old rectory was razed.

Many improvements were made under Fr. Doody. In 1963, the full seating capacity of the church was realized with the installation of pews in both transepts. They were given as a memorial to Mrs. Kathryn Schiesser. On October 4, 1963, Fr. Doody blessed the St. Francis of Assisi outdoor shrine, erected in memory of Dr. Francis Sazama.

The Capuchin fathers transferred the college division of their seminary from Huntington, Indiana to a new location on Burr Street in June of 1959. Fr. Doody enlisted their assistance in saying Mass on Sundays. They remained there until about 1972 when they sold the grounds to Hyles-Anderson for use by the Hammond Baptist Church.

Fr. Doody was transferred to St. Mary Parish in Michigan City in February of 1964. He was replaced by Rev. Bernard F. Shank on April 3, 1964.

The Last Twenty Five

Father Shank, who was a seminary classmate of Fr. Doody, was ordained to the priesthood in 1942. It was during his reign that English was introduced into the Mass. He also constructed a new altar of sacrifice facing the congregation and had permanent, built-in confessionals installed. An addition was made to the school with the dedication taking place in February of 1970.

At the time of St. Michael's 100th Anniversary the parish family numbered 734 registered households and the school enrollment was approximately 400 students.



St. Michael's looking from the cemetery.

In 1975, a parish monthly newspaper, *The Mike*, was started. It was similar in size and format to the current Schererville News and ran between eight and twelve pages in length. It was mailed to all parishioners and informed the parish community about everything that was going on at St. Michael's Church and School. It was started by business efforts of Ken Bohling. The first Editor was Steve Yaros who produced the paper for about three years. *The Mike* was then taken over by Rich and Betty Jonas with Rich as Editor until 1986. The paper ceased at that time.

The church had a complete cosmetic overhaul in 1975 and still looks basically the same today.

Father Joseph Vamos took over the reigns of St. Michael's in June of 1979. The energetic Fr. Vamos

got some of the stagnation, that had settled into St. Michael's, out. Some of the activities that were either nonexistent or stagnating became successful parts of parish life. Some of them were: Christmas Bazaar, Annual Parish Dance, Las Vegas Night, Baby Jesus Birthday Party, Annual Parish Picnic, Outdoor Mass on Calvary and others. He also formed an elected Parish Council which had previously been appointed. Its first elected president was Ken Bohling. A major undertaking was the reopening of the Grottos under Calvary in 1980 under the leadership of Fr. Roy Beeching. Much of the dedicated and time-consuming work to accomplish this was done by Marjorie Banter. Unfortunately, as this history is updated, they are once again closed. They are truly unique.

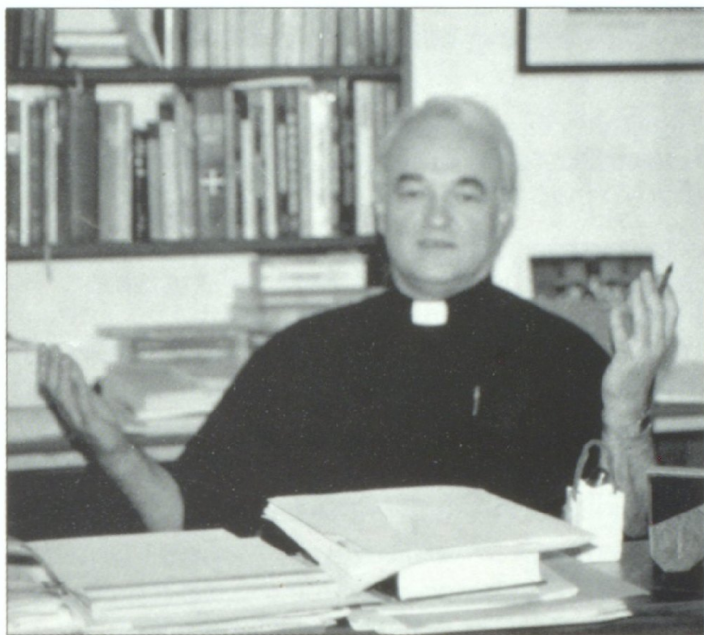
Speaking of unique, the history of St. Michael's can not leave out the long dedicated service of one of its organists, Alice Siebert. Alice, just a few short

years ago, completed a half century as church organist.

Fr. Vamos also undertook a building project to add a second story to the 1968 school addition. In 1984 a gym was completed on the site of the old 1916 school which had been torn down the previous year. Fr. Vamos was a dedicated and energetic leader. He was transferred in 1988 to Our Lady of Consolation.

He was replaced by Fr. Patrick Connolly. Under Fr. Connolly the parish has continued to grow and thrive. For the last several years, the Parish has been looking for a solution to a crowded worship schedule.

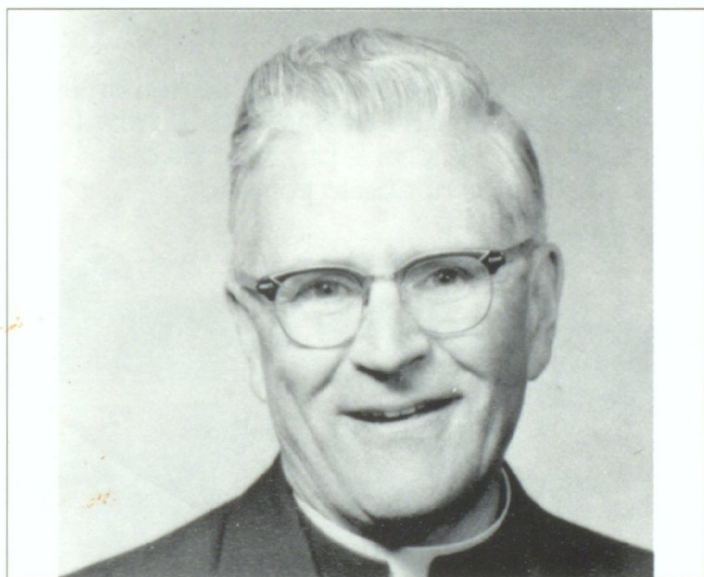
A large part of Schererville history revolved around St. Michael's. One must remember that most of the early inhabitants of Schererville, including Mr. Scherer, were German Catholics who considered their religion as one of their most prized possessions.



Fr. Patrick Connolly - current pastor of St. Michael's.



Fr. Joe Vamos - pastor from June, 1979 until 1988. His servers are Mike Bohling (left) and Ervin Bohling (right) better known as Pinsky.



Fr. Bernard Shank - pastor from April, 1964 until June of 1979.



John Townsend - first deacon of St. Michaels. Deacon Townsend was ordained in June 1984 and served until his death at the age of 53. He founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Michaels and was the co-founder of Lake county Right to Life.





THE ALDON COMPANIES



Builder and Developer

The Aldon Companies offer over 40 years of experience in the building industry. Included within the Aldon Companies are Aldon Builders, Inc., a well-known builder since 1960, Aldon Management and Marketing, Countryside Development and other similar related businesses.

For three generations, Aldon companies has provided thousands of people in Northwest Indiana with homes of excellence. The Aldon commitment to excellence began in 1940 when Alfred Gomez Sr. moved up the carpentry ladder from carpenter to craftsman, to quality custom home builder. His son Alfred Gomez Jr. entered the carpentry field in 1958 after a stint with the Navy as an electrician. This merger of father and son resulted in a successful combination which has created many outstanding homes in the Northwest Indiana area.

Aldon Builders grew meeting the demand for quality homes and adopted the slogan "There is no substitute for quality" which holds true today. Aldon Builders has built over 1,200 homes in the Schererville, St. John, Munster, Crown Point, and Merrillville area.

Since 1972, Aldon Companies has participated in a variety of commercial projects. One of the first projects was a 350,000 sq. ft. school complex in Schererville known as Hammond Baptist School (Baptist City). Other projects include a gymnasium, bowling alley, dormitories, and indoor miniature golf course and a dining hall for Hyles Anderson College; various office and commercial buildings, churches, and even a mausoleum.

In 1976, Brian Gomez, Alfred Gomez Jr.'s oldest of two sons, joined the company and worked as a laborer/carpenter, project manager and sales manager. Brian attended Liberty Bible College. Brian currently is President of Highlites Construction Company in Schererville.

In 1978, Brad Gomez joined the company working on new home construction, as a laborer/carpenter. He attended Olivet Nazarene College for a Business Administration education and also attended Valparaiso University for additional Business Administration courses. In 1982, Brad began as a project manager for Springvale Townhomes, a 192 townhome project in Schererville. In 1984 he was promoted to office administrator and continues working in that capacity today.

Aldon Companies currently offer a wide selection of single family homes, condominiums, and townhomes all built of superior quality and craftsmanship and designed to fit any lifestyle from classic traditional to advanced contemporaries. Aldon is proud to be a member of the Schererville Chamber of commerce and will continue to provide Schererville with quality homes for its growing community.

Springvale
TOWNHOMES

Park Center
OFFICE PLAZA

BRANDONWOOD LAKES
TOWNHOMES

The Brandonwood
OF SPRINGVALE
TOWNHOMES

Eastview Terrace
TOWNHOMES

Northwoods
SHERERVILLE
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

BRANDONWOOD LAKES
east
TOWNHOMES

STONEBROOK
CONDOMINIUMS

Forest View
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

Pine Island Ridge
The residential community with natural elegance
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

Rp
TOWNHOMES

FIELD STONE
CROSSING
TOWNHOMES &
SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

THE GOMEZ FAMILY



Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Gomez, Sr. celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary at Teibels Restaurant on January 28, 1982.

Alfred Gomez, Sr. was born November 26, 1912. He was the eldest of ten children born to Louis and Maria (Torrez) Gomez. He was raised in Whiting, Indiana.

Geraldine Kikkert was born June 25, 1915 in Chicago, IL. Her parents were Andrew and Anna (Hewes) Kikkert. She was raised in Hammond, Indiana.

Al and Geraldine spent the early years of their marriage living on Lake Hills Road. Geraldine remembers pulling a wagon to Joliet Street for groceries. Al worked at Inland Steel for many years.

The couple have three children; Al Jr., Eileen Palmer and Roberta Bell. Mr. Gomez began Aldon Builders in 1960. His son joined him in 1961 and now Aldon Companies, Inc. is in its third generation as a family business. Mr. Gomez was a member of the Hessville Assembly of God Church, an original member of the Lake County Sheriff's Posse and a past member of Calumet Council of Boy Scouts. He died November 11, 1989. His wife, Geraldine, presently resides in Schererville.

Alfred Gomez, Jr. and his wife, Jacqueline (Reed) have lived in Schererville since 1975. They have four children and six grandchildren all residing in Schererville. They are Lesli (Dennis Krzemien) and sons, Jim & Dan; Brian (Terri Ward) Gomez and sons, Troy & Kent; Carrie Ann Gomez and Bradley (Anita Brown) Gomez and children, Bree & Logan.

Kenneth and Josephine (Van Sickle) Reed were the parents of Jacqueline Kay Reed Gomez (mentioned above) and Kenneth Dearborn Reed. Kenneth D. Reed is a past attorney for the Town of Schererville and a highly regarded lawyer in Northwest Indiana. He and his wife, Shirley (Mosca) have two sons, Ken & John.



Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Gomez, Jr. will be celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary in August, 1993.



The family home is an Aldon landmark located approximately 1/2 block west of Cline Avenue on the north side of Rt. 30.



Jack & Jeanne (Sandstrom) Kaluf, Dave Kaluf, Jeff & Cynde (Gibson) Kaluf. Below: Mark, Brian, Eric



Mobile Office at the Munster home, 8128 Meadow Lane

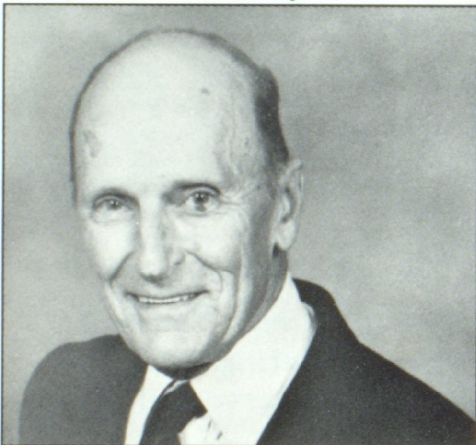
HISTORY OF KALUF LAMINATED DRYWALL INC.

Started in 1959 in a one car garage in Munster, Indiana, Jack Kaluf saw an opportunity to start a business with a new product that could be installed quicker and for a third of the price of plaster. With the help of one employee, Kaluf Drywall was formed.

Almost 33 years later, Kaluf Drywall now has 40 employees and operates out of a 15,400 sq. ft. facility on the corner of Cline Avenue and Route 30 in Schererville, Indiana. This facility includes a Wholesale Supply Business and 11 Rental Offices. Sons Jeff and Dave are partners in the family business. Annual sales average 2-1/2 million.

Currently, we work for 85 of the Calumet Region's Premiere Builders and completed over 400 jobs per year. Our work includes small room additions from remodeling contractors and commercial project including shopping malls, schools, hospitals and apartments. We also have done 90% of all the custom homes built in Briar Ridge.

Quality and Service have always been the #1 priority to Jack Kaluf. With this commitment, George Watson, Jim Dinges and 20 of our builders have never used another drywall company over the 30 years we have been in business.



A long time Schererville resident, Bud (Bert) Grummer was among the first Kaluf employees. He remembers working with Kaluf out of the old store just east of the old Munster Town Hall Building. Grummer still lives in Schererville in the Historical Millinery Building at 30 W. Joliet St. Check this book for an old picture.

The largest drywall manufacturer in the world, United States Gypsum, recognized Jack Kaluf's commitment to quality and new innovations in the field. We do 80% of all the non-lab testing and evaluations of their new products. United States Gypsum has also highlighted Jack Kaluf as a speaker on "Sales Thru Quality" during a Corporate Meeting of all their plant managers; from all areas of the country. Jack Kaluf & family now resides in St. John since 1964.



Kaluf Building, 2301 Cline Avenue. Dave Kaluf by truck.

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar

650 W. Lincoln Hwy.
Schererville, Indiana
219-322-4750



In July 1992, ground was broken for the start of construction on Schererville's newest neighborhood restaurant.



Skilled craftsmen working long hard hours were responsible for successfully completing the restaurant.



By the middle of September, 1992 with 60% of the construction completed, progress was quite evident.



With the enthusiastic leadership of Applebee's management team, the restaurant was ready to open.



On November 3, 1992 (Election Day), Schererville's newest neighbor opened very successfully.

We at Applebee's are proud to be a part of the fine community of Schererville, Indiana

WATSON

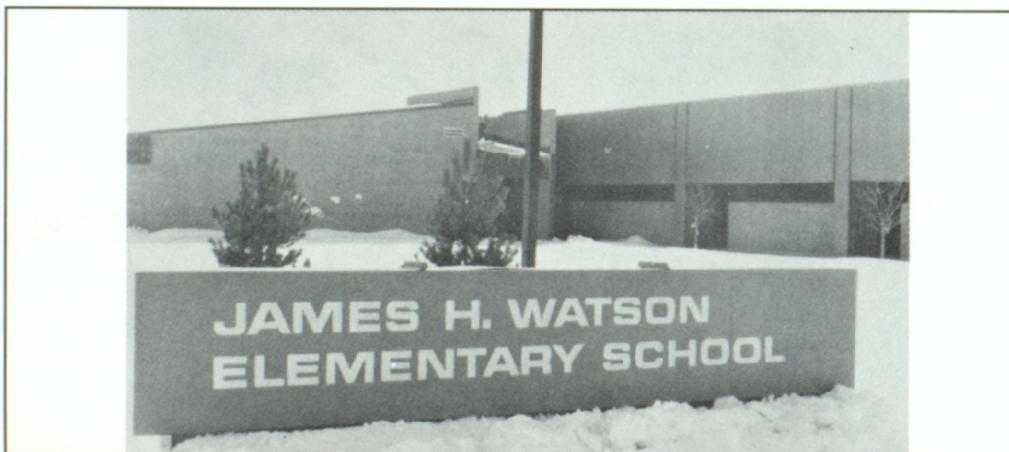


James Henry Watson was born in Clark County, Indiana on November 13, 1912 to James Curry Watson and Florence Bradley Watson. He was united in marriage on September 9, 1933, to Pauline Louise Speer who was born in Orange County, Indiana on November 12, 1913 to Virgil Scott Speer and Olive Magill Speer.

Betty Joan Watson, child of James and Pauline Speer Watson, was born July 14, 1934 in Orange County, Indiana. She taught in the Fort Wayne Schools and East Chicago Schools. Betty married Gerald Edward Seegers on June 28, 1958. They have two children, Karen Rose Seegers, who married Jefferey Allen Hunter on April 6, 1991 and James Douglas Seegers.

In 1946 James and Pauline Watson came to Schererville and each of them served this corporation for thirty-six years. He was superintendent of the Schererville Schools and Pauline was a teacher at Homan School and later at Peifer School. Mr. Watson has worked 47 years in the public schools of Indiana as a teacher, coach and administrator. Mrs. Watson has taught 40 years in the public schools in Indiana.

Each of them have pride in this community and feel proud of their home here. James H. Watson felt respected and honored to have a special school bear his name - THE JAMES H. WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. The Watsons retired in 1982. He remained active in Schererville until his death on January 23, 1987. He is interred at Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Orleans in Orange County, Indiana. Additional information on the Watsons is in the records of the Schererville Historical Society.



EDUCATION IN SCHERERVILLE

1853 - 1913

(From Record Book of the Proceedings of the Township Trustees for the years 1853 - 1874)

On April 30, 1853, the Board of Township Trustees met with the voters of St. John Township. Present were Adam Schmal, President; Henry Keilman and Vincent Schindler, trustees; James W. Rosencrantz, Treasurer; and Joseph Vornhulz, Clerk. A large majority of the taxpayers voted to levy 12 cents on each one hundred dollars assessed on real and personal property with the money to be used to pay teachers.

The same board met again in June, 1853, and transacted the following business. The following are quotes taken from the board records.

Order No. 1: Ordered that the money of the school funds what belongs to District No. 2 are appropriated to said district for the purpose to finish the schoolhouse in said district.

Order No. 3: Ordered that the money of the school funds that belongs to District No. 1 are appropriated to said district for the purpose to build a school in said district so far as the money will go.

Orders No. 2 and No. 4 appropriated the money for materials and carpenter work and ordered Henry Keilman and Vincent Schindler to proceed with the arrangements for building.

At a later meeting in March, 1854, the following business was transacted.

Order No. 11: Ordered that the treasurer pay to Amra Rosencrantz fifty-four dollars, being the amount due him by his account rendered and allowed for teaching school in No. 1 three months at eighteen dollars per month.

From minutes of a meeting a month later, we read: Order No 15: Ordered that the treasurer pay forty-eight dollars to Mary Portz for her salary for teaching School No. 2 four months at twelve dollars per month.

From these minutes in the official records of the Board of Trustees, we must conclude that the years 1853-54 mark the first provision for the free public school education of the children of the early settlers who lived in the area of the present town of Schererville.

At a meeting for school purposes in September, 1854, Vincent Schindler was authorized to hire a teacher for three months for School No. 1 and Adam Schmal was given the same authorization for School No. 2. There is, however, no evidence that this was done. The business of road building fills the pages of the record book and no mention is made of school business except the arrangement for enumeration in 1857 and the levying of a 20 cent tax for building and repairing schoolhouses in the years 1857-58.

In 1858, in the treasurer's record of expenditures,

we find money appropriated for repairs to School No. 1 which amounted almost to a rebuilding. Also, \$60 was paid to Joseph Vornhulz for teaching School No. 2 and \$100 to M. Force (may be Mary Portz) for teaching in School No. 1.



District 1 School. Currently pictured as the Nick and Gen (Dewes) Doffin residence. Originally it was a log cabin school.

From that time on, with the possible exception of one or two years, School No. 2 was in session until it was permanently closed in 1907. School No. 1 was the school from which our present Homan School evolved. It has been in session all but a half dozen, or so years since 1858.

School No. 2, a well-built frame building, was located on the Willy farm in Section 17 of Schererville. The building sat on the northwest corner at the intersection of the Old St. John Road and Novak Road. Because of its location in the corner section of the town, it drew much of its enrollment from an area south and west of the town. For this reason many of the older citizens of Schererville speak of it as a St. John or a Dyer school.

At the time of the Centennial the first District No. 1 School was somewhat of a mystery. Since then, more about it and its current status is known. It is still standing at 1041 Highway 330. This is about one mile east of Cline Avenue. The current residents of this former District 1 School are Nicholas and Gen Doffin and they are completing 50 years of residence in it.

In 1881, Trustee Henry Schulte build a third school in Schererville. This school was located on the Hart land across from Omni. This school was officially designated as School No. 8 but commonly



referred to as Hartsdale School or Rohrman School.

Beginning in 1858, one or more of these schools has been in session to the present.

Until 1860, Schools No. 1 and No. 2 were managed by a board of three trustees, whose duties, besides building and supplying schools and hiring teachers extended even to examining teachers and determining their qualifications for licenses.

The law of 1859 provided that the three-member trustee board be replaced by a single trustee. In compliance with that law, Peter Portz was elected to serve as trustee of St. John Township. Schererville schools were under a succession of trustees until 1913 when Schererville received permission from the state to appoint a school board and thus become the School Town of Schererville.

A complete list of township trustees to 1914 is - Peter Portz, Bernard Schulte, Henry Schulte, Bernhard Scheidt, Michael Grimmer, Henry Keilman, William F. Keilman, J. A. Weis, Henry Batterman and Frank Scheidt.

A district director, elected by the voters in his district, took care of such physical needs of the school as repair of the building, furniture and fences and the provision of wood for the stove. In addition, he was on call to assist the teacher in handling recalcitrant pupils. It was his duty to call an annual meeting of the taxpayers in his district to elect a new director and a teacher for the coming year and to receive bids for wood. Teachers were often chosen for their ability to teach both German and "proper" English. As for the wood, specifications were definite as to size and quality, with the added requirement that it must "satisfy the teacher." A bidder was at the mercy of the elements, since the amount covered by the bid was "enough to keep the schoolhouse warm."

Teachers usually were chosen from the community. During those early years there was no definite requirement for formal education. A change in the law in 1861 provided that a county examiner, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, should replace the trustee in determining qualifications of teachers. This examiner, besides conducting public examinations for licensing teachers, served also as a medium of communication between the district schools and the State Superintendent. It was his duty, also, to visit schools and to do everything possible to upgrade the quality of teaching.

In 1873, the office of County Examiner was abolished and was replaced by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Beginning in 1866, Indiana school laws required fairly complete reports from teachers to trustees. These reports, still available in books of Teacher Contracts and Reports to Trustees, give us some interesting information about the early schools.

A typical list of supplies for these one-room schools was a water bucket, a tin cup, a wash basin, one chair, a dictionary, a globe (usually described as "injured"), one or two maps, a scientific temperance chart, a poker, a shovel and 4 - 6 window shades.

The number of desks listed was always fewer than the enrollment, even if we are to assume that each desk seated two pupils. The very frequent payment for benches entered in the records of expenditures probably explains how they managed to seat all the pupils.

One teacher, in the space in his report reserved for listing supplies, saved time by answering simply "Enough." A thrifty lady teacher, in the blank space for listing needs for the next year, wrote only "We could use another tin cup." Amusing as that may seem to us today, we must not underestimate the importance of that one tin cup when as many as seventy pupils trooped in from play. Interestingly, a lady who attended No. 2 School, when asked to relate anything about her school that impressed her, answered proudly, "I remember that all the other schools had tin cups, but ours was made of enamel."

Even as early as 1866, all teacher reports listed a textbook for every subject, including Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, English Grammar, Physiology and History of the United States. In 1866, Mr. Streng, teacher at No. 2 School, in addition to listing English books for Spelling, Reading and Arithmetic, included a German textbook for all subjects. In 1871, Andrew Kammer listed German texts. Theodore Kammer did the same in 1893. Estelle Keilman, at least during some of her teaching years, devoted half the day to lessons in German. No. 2 School seems to have given more emphasis to education in German than did No. 1. However, Adam Gerlach, who taught frequently in No. 1 School, usually added German to the curriculum, but listed no textbook.

Until 1890, when the Indiana Series was used almost uniformly in the township, it was left to the teachers, and sometimes to the voters at the annual director's meetings, to decide what textbooks would be used and whether or not German would be taught. Through the early years, McGuffey's spelling and reading books were used. School No. 2 continued their use until 1881, but the No. 1 School changed to Harvey's and others by 1871. The Spencerian system of writing was used almost uniformly, though one teacher, Paul Lemon, listed the Lemon System and Mr. Wagoner, The Leon Wagoner System. Ray's arithmetic, Monteith's physiology, Pinneo's English grammar and Quackenboo's United States history were the ones most commonly used until the Indiana Series became the uniform adoption.

We think of functional spelling, that is, words chosen from the content of all the other subjects as being a progressive product of recent years; but not so. Two of the teachers in these very early schools listed no spelling text. Instead, they designated "Words chosen from the branches." If we think that kindergarten and preschool are innovations of the twentieth century, we are not correct. In spite of very large enrollments, sometimes with one teacher in charge of all eight grades, children were admitted at age 5 and occasionally at age 4. They were put in a "Chart Class" where, since many of them could



understand only German, they remained two or three years before they were promoted to first grade.

Promotions were strictly by readers and the teacher's Report to Successor included not only the name of the reader, but also the page where the pupil stopped at the end of the year. At first glance, the slow rate of advancement from grade to grade, as recorded in the teachers' registers, is somewhat of a shock. But when one realizes the handicaps of the times, he becomes amazed at what was accomplished. Not only did the child enter school with no knowledge of English, but, in many cases, the teacher also was struggling with the language problem. Enrollments, especially in School No. 1, were unbelievably large and the necessities of the times, including the farm work to be done, and the long walk to school over rough roads made the average daily attendance little more than half of the enrollment.

Before 1870, school terms varied from three to six months. After 1870, they were uniformly seven months until they were increased to eight months in 1873. From 1891 to 1895, these early schools again were ahead of their times, for they extended their school term to ten months. From 1895 to the present, without exception, Schererville schools have been open for terms of nine months.

An 1866 minimum salary law provided that a beginning teacher should be paid no less per day than $2\frac{1}{4}$ times his grade on his examination for license. The second year his minimum salary would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the average of the average of his examination grade and the success grade given to him by the county superintendent after his first year of teaching. The third year, and all years thereafter, the teacher's minimum daily salary would be $2\frac{3}{4}$ times the average of his latest examination and success grades. A fine of \$100 would be imposed on an employer who violated this law.

From 1866 to 1892, salaries for men teachers varied from \$1.75 to \$2.75 per day, with only a slight upward trend through the years. The years between 1892 and 1900 list a few salaries at \$3.00 per day and one at \$4.25. Frances Scherer, the only woman teacher between 1866 and 1881, received \$1.50 per day. From 1881 to the present there have been women teachers in Schererville schools every year. Through the years until 1912, women were always paid more than the men.

Most of the foregoing general information applies to all of the early schools of Schererville and all schools were under the direction of the same trustee.

School No. 2 — 1866 - 1907

School No. 2 is commonly referred to as Hoffman School or Leinen School, probably because John Leinen served the school as director for many of its later years. Early historians, and some present Schererville citizens, refer to it as the Line Schools. This may be a corruption of the spelling of Leinen School, or it may be the result of its location in Section 17, which is enclosed on two sides by the

boundary lines of the town of Schererville.

Though School No. 1 and School No. 2 were in operation regularly after 1858, the first writers of the history of Schererville chose to begin the information with 1866, the date when Schererville was platted as a town and which, also, is the date when more complete records are available. This part of the history will end with 1913, the date after which the schools were no longer in the township system.

In 1866, School No. 2 had an enrollment of 77 pupils, but the following year it decreased to 31. This was probably due to another school opening in a neighboring district. From then on, enrollment ranged from 42 downward until 1907, when the school closed permanently with 11 pupils enrolled at the end of the term.

Because of the position of the school in the far south and west corner of Schererville, lists of pupils attending would include more St. John and Dyer families than families from Schererville. Six of the Willy children attended the school. Mrs. Edith (Willy) Peterson and her sister Caroline, who was interviewed in 1966, talked about the school with nostalgia and affection since it was located on their farm. They remembered that the pupils planted a tree in the schoolyard on each Arbor Day. Memories will be memories. Caroline remembered the fun she had playing in the basement of the old building after it was abandoned while Edith remembered, equally well, that the school had no basement.

Other families whose homes were within the boundaries of Schererville were the Schillings and the Leinens. Joe Hoffman, well known to Schererville young people because of his service as bus driver, was enrolled in No. 2 School through its last term. Verona Haag, who was a long-time teacher in the Schererville schools, graduated from the eighth grade of this school in 1903.

Teachers who taught in No 2 for one year were: Mary Portz, Joseph Vornhulz, Amanda Feltz, Sister Alfred, Mary Chase, Andreas June, Aloys Streng, Paul Lemon, Theodore Wagoner, Anna Koupal, Adeline Laible, Annie Groman Charles Harter, Henry Phillips, Henry Reichers and Regina Alt. Theodore Brinker and Andrew Kammer taught in the school for 6 years. Madeline Laible taught for 5 years, Theodore Kammer for 4 years, and Lizzie Seberger and Cecilia Ludwig taught for 3 years. Estelle Keilman taught the last two years that the school was in session.

Records show regular and, sometimes, extensive repairs on the building, but the same sturdy one-room school served from its origin in 1853 until it was closed in 1907. In 1914, the building was sold to Jacob Moeler for \$80. At the time of the Centennial, the schoolhouse sat on the farm lot of the Ilus Wood home on Route 30 in Dyer.

In 1917, Mr. August Willy appeared before the Schererville School Board and secured the release of the school lot of District No. 2, which had been donated for school use. It became, again, a part of the farm from which it originated in 1853.



Schools No. 1 and No. 8 — 1866 - 1913

In 1866, School No. 1, sometimes called Schererville School, was still in its original building. This is the school previously referred to as the current Nick and Gen Doffin residence located at 1041 Highway 330.

On July 27, 1867, at a meeting called by the director, George Phillips, a majority of the taxpayers present voted to divide District No. 1 on a line north and south a mile east of the present boundary of Schererville. It was decided that the east side of the district should keep the old schoolhouse and that the people of the west half should help move it to whatever spot the east half designated. A record in the treasurer's books of an amount spent "for the moving of a school" suggests this may have been done. Also, a few people in the area remember hearing of a school almost as far east as the township line.

On April 12, 1869, Joseph Lammers, the director of School No. 1, called a meeting of the voters to decide whether or not the first district should be divided and, if not divided, whether to move the schoolhouse to Schererville or to build a new one immediately at Schererville and sell the old one.

It was voted 27 to 7 against dividing the district and 28 to 8 to erect a new schoolhouse in Schererville. It was also voted to petition the trustee to employ two teachers and to sell the old schoolhouse.

As a result of this meeting and another with the trustee, a contract was let to the lowest bidder, Joseph Piciui, to build a two-room schoolhouse. It was to be 24' x 42' with a 6' x 6' vestibule. The work was completed by August 1869.

This new two-room frame building was built in approximately the same place as the present Homan School. It was sometimes called School No. 1, but as time went on it became known as Schererville School. The old No. 1 schoolhouse was sold on July 15, 1869, to the Schulte Brothers for \$120. One half of that building became the first St. Michael's School in 1893. It was a 20 x 24 foot building.

Teachers who taught one year each in the first District No. 1 School were Amra Rosencrantz, M. Force (or Mary Portz) and Julius Spencer. John Johns, who later became a well-known doctor in Dyer, taught two years to further his education in medicine. George Gerlach and Adam Gerlach each taught four years in this little one-room school.

During the years after 1870, directors called many meetings during which the voters expressed through the ballot their wishes for furnishing the school, hiring teachers, building fences and supplying water. Ultimately, it was the right of the trustee to decide such matters. However, he was strongly influenced by the petitions which resulted from action at these district meetings.

A typical list of expenditures, as listed in the director's minutes, makes interesting reading:

Feb. 3, 1877	2 window panes	16
Feb. 23	2 brooms	50

Mar. 22	2 brooms	50
Apr. 11	Ink .05 Matches .10	15
May 8	1 box chalk	30
Sept. 4	1 broom	25
Sept. 9	1 box matches	10
Oct. 4	1 box matches	20
Oct. 7	Soap and Stove Polish	18
Nov. 4	matches	20
Nov. 28	2 brooms	50
Nov. 29	Mrs. Thices Wichese	1.00
Dec. 10	matches	25
Feb. 11, '78	matches	25
	wood for the year	34.20

Little wonder that taxpayers seldom made public complaint, though they might have cause to question the largest item, \$1.00 for "Mrs. Thices Wichese." Matches and brooms seem to be the items of continuing expense.

Only a small percentage of the legal voters of the district attended these meetings. Some of the people who, by their attendance, showed interest in improving the schools were Adrean Cook, George Phillips, Mathias Reeder, John Duffing, Charles and Ransom Dutton, Nicholas Scherer, Martin, John and Peter Reeder, John and Jacob Theimen, Joseph Lammers, Nick and Michael Fries, Peter Schumacher, Adolph Landgraff, Seth Owens, Nicholas Thies, Mathias Miller, John Seberger, Adam Schilling, Nicholas Schafer and John Austgen.

From 1866, when reports are first available, to 1876, when two teachers were first hired, enrollments in School No. 1 ranged from 65 to 130 pupils. Unbelievable as these figures seem, they must be true because, in addition to the reports of the teacher to the trustee, annual enumeration figures confirm the probability. According to the enumeration in 1868, there were 138 youths in the district, and in 1870 there were 134 youths. Between 1889 and 1895, enumeration of children ranged from 117 to 136.

If we are appalled by the idea of one teacher instructing so many pupils in one room, Adam Gerlach was not. In spite of an average daily attendance of 97 in the year 1870, he added algebra and German to his curriculum, and the next year he added, botany and philosophy. The following year he tried the class on a course in psychology. In 1879, Michael Grimmer added Composition and Letters and several teachers included a course in bookkeeping.

The compulsory education law of the time required children from ages seven to fourteen to attend school. A part-time attendance officer was paid \$2 for each day he visited schools. His name appears frequently on the teachers' reports of visitors.

In almost every annual director's meeting after the two-room school was built, the voters present voted to petition the trustee to hire two teachers to teach in Schererville School in English and in German. Finally this was done in 1876 and was continued until 1881, when, because of the addition of School No. 8, enrollments no longer justified it. During all



these years, a man, designated Principal Teacher, taught the upper grades. The teacher for the lower grades was usually a woman. By 1883, enrollments again warranted two teachers in School No. 1.

School No. 8, or Hartsdale School, was a one-room frame building built by Trustee Henry Schulte in 1881. The school opened that fall and was in session 160 days. Adeline Laible was the teacher, and the enrollment that term was 17 pupils.

During the years 1881 to 1890, Schererville School, Hartsdale School and School No. 2 were all in session. By 1889, enumeration showed only five families, with a total of eight children, living in District 8, and the following year only five children of the Hubert Getzingers, Nicholas Rohrmans, Fred Withenhages and William Rothledges (Ruttlege) remained in the school at the end of the year. The school, therefore, was closed from 1890 to 1894.

Teachers who taught in Hartsdale School up to its temporary closing were Adeline Laible, Charles Harter, LeGrand T. Myers, Mary Schulte, Mary Niemetz and Grace Newman.

School was again in session from 1894 to 1907, when the term closed with three children enrolled. During the 1894-95 term, J. H. Jaques, Nellie Weeks and George Laben shared the teaching assignment. The teacher for the remaining eleven years of this time was Miss Zipporah Davis.



Miss Zipporah Davis, well remembered teacher who taught at Hartsdale from 1895-1907.

Miss Davis, or Zippie, as she was affectionately called, leaves much evidence that she was a dedicated teacher who did much for the pupils who attended her classes. Zippie was accustomed to riding a one-car train called "the Dinky" from her home in Dyer to the school at Hartsdale. One pupil recalled a day when a blinding snow storm and blizzard made it impossible for the Dinky to run. Some of the pupils managed to walk to school. For the first time Zippie wasn't there to meet them, but

somehow they knew that she would come. They waited and eventually down the road came Zippie on a horse.

Miss Davis' carefully written daily program point up the task faced by all teachers of these one-room schools. Class sessions were in neat little packets of 8-12 minutes each, but there was still time for 8 minutes for Weather Chart each morning. Reading Circle books were available to schools if the teacher put enough pressure on the trustee to buy them, and apparently Zippie did. These, with other books added year to year, made the library at Hartsdale an impressive one for its time.

After Hartsdale closed temporarily in 1907, Miss Davis taught in Dyer until about 1922. She then left to teach in Gary. She passed away in the early 1960's.



St. Michael's School pictured in 1903. It had two additions, one in 1901 and another in 1902.

In the year 1892, a two-story brick building was built by Trustee Michael Grimmer to replace the old No. 1 frame building which had been in use since 1870. This new school sat on the same lot where Homan school is today. In fact, the first addition on the west side of Homan School occupies part of the site of the two-story brick building. The contract was awarded to Jacob Scholl, whose bid of \$3266 was the lowest. It is interesting to note that records of payments on this school read sometimes as "payment on Schererville School" and other times as "payment on School No. 1."

When Hartsdale reopened in 1895, there were, again, four teachers in the Schererville public schools. School was then held in three buildings. There were 77 students under two teachers at Schererville School, 23 students at School No. 2 and 19 pupils at School No. 8. Enrollments remained fairly constant until the year 1902.

In 1900, the Catholic parish purchased a part of

the abandoned frame building and moved it closer to the church. At first it was used only for religious instruction. By the fall of 1900, the parish provided classes in this building for pupils above third grade and, by the following year, all who wished to attend were admitted.



Half of District 1 School built in 1870. This half became St. Michael's first school. St. Mike's started teaching in this school in 1900.

From the fall of 1902 until 1905, Schererville Public School was closed because virtually all of the children of Schererville attended St. Michael's School. During that time enrollment at No. 2 averaged 23 and at No. 8 it averaged 27.

Pupils enrolled in Schererville Public School the year before St. Michael's School opened its doors were the following: Allie, John, Emma, Peter and Frank Reiplinger; Ernest Lustig; John and Willie Stephan; Charles, Fred and Maggie Treinen; George, Tillie and Charles Scholl (Note next paragraph); Allie Steuer; George Carls; Joseph and Mary Risch; Josie, Lizzie, Theresa, Frank and John Austgen; Martha and Willie Schafer; Willie and Josie Schischka; Allie and Nick Thiel; Harry Seberger; Betty and Alfred Hilbrich; Willie Grimmer; Theresa and Peter Scheidt; Mamie Scherer; John Young; Louisa, Lena and Peter Doffin; John and Mary Kuhn; Katie, Nick, George and Benny Maas; Mary Schubert; John Reeder; Katie, Frank and Joseph Schilling; Theresa Brown; Frank Rackie; Joseph and Katie Sutter; Katie and Annie Korner; Ellen Spanier; Helen and John Smith; Auburn Palmer; Edith Berwanger; Mary Erb; Francis Biegel; Joseph Spindler; and Charles and Willie Bohnay.

It is interesting to see how many children had the same names. We have gone through the Debbys, Mikes and Jennifers. Back then it was Katie, Allie and Willie time. There was a name listed in the last paragraph that I call to your attention. Have you ever heard of Dr. Scholl's foot pads, bunion pads,

odor eaters, etc.? Well, Dr. Scholl was born and raised in Schererville, Indiana (see earlier mention of him in this book). He started his practice in Cedar Lake. If you would like to see some of his early instruments, etc. you are encouraged to visit the Cedar Lake Historical Museum which was so generously leased to the Cedar Lake Historical Society for a few dollars per month by the Town of Cedar Lake. Wouldn't it be nice if sometime, before it is too late, the original Scherer house could be acquired, preserved and used as a Schererville Historical Museum. The previous was not meant to be a question, but a challenge to the town.

While scanning Hartsdale School records for the same period, one was led to wonder if the very frequent absence marks meant that Susie Rohrman (Grimmer) had many illnesses and she was asked about this. Susie said, when she was interviewed in 1966, that those were hard times and she had to work in the fields. When asked to account for the frozen winter months, she was more hesitant with her answer. She said "Those were hard times - and besides it was cold - and the snow was deep."

In 1905, Schererville School reopened with eleven pupils, but only four were enrolled at the end of the year. No. 8 opened with ten pupils, of whom only two boys and one girl remained to finish the term. Withdrawals from Hartsdale School are largely accounted for by the exodus to the Highland Christian School. The decrease in enrollment at Schererville was due almost entirely to the move to the Catholic School.

At the close of 1907, only twenty pupils remained in the three public schools. In 1907, School No. 2 was closed permanently and the Hartsdale School closed until 1910.

In the fall of 1910, Hartsdale reopened with Cora Pinter as teacher. From that time until 1918 Hartsdale was the only public school in town.

Interpreting records presents only part of the story of the struggle involved in getting a public school education at that time. Pupils of that time were interviewed in 1966 and agree with the description given by Dena (Swets) Krooswyk as follows.

Hartsdale School sat in a low spot of undrained land. Except in very dry weather, mud holes were ever present in the school yard and the slough behind the school was a problem except in winter when it became a skating pond. At best, children had to cross a marsh to get to school. All had to endure the discomfort of wet feet, but the timid girls suffered also the terrors of snakes and small animals slithering across their path. If one lived on the east side of the tracks, he had added problems. He must walk a plank to cross the ditch, then carefully follow the zigzag path carved out by Mr. Swets to help the children climb over the high railroad embankment. During this crossing it was not uncommon for one to drop his Tip Top or Plow Boy tobacco pail and see pail, lid, and unwrapped lunch going their separate ways down the embankment. And some kids today think that they have it rough!

Trustee's records of expenditures from 1907 to



1910 show regular monthly wages paid to Michael Stephen, Ed Stephen and Mrs. Elizabeth Christenson for hauling school children to Schererville. Wages were paid for a shorter period to Nick Redar and Nick Schafer. We have no official explanation of the need for three drivers to Schererville School. It is known, however, that the St. John and Dyer areas, because of the opening of Catholic schools, were experiencing the same flux that we have described in Schererville. Seven of the public schools in the township were closed permanently between the years of 1905 and 1909 and three more were closed temporarily from 1906 to 1910. John Stephen remembered that his brother, Mike, went to the far southeast corner of the township to pick up children attending school in Schererville.

The following is a complete account of teachers teaching in the Schererville school from 1869 until it closed, temporarily, in 1910.

Adam Gerlach, who taught in School No. 1 for four years before 1869, continued to teach three more years in the new school. Michael Grimmer taught three years and Frances Scherer, Ed Neifing and J. C. Seberger each taught two years. Those with one year included William Esswein, Ferdinand Meyer, Ed McClure and Rudolph Haitz.

After 1882, Michael Kolb served as principal teacher for seven years and Joseph Schischka served for nine years. Theodore Kammer served in that capacity for the last two years before the closing of the school in 1902. Beginning this same span of years, Mary Schulte was the lower grade teacher for two years. After that, Sister Mary Elizabeth, a Franciscan nun, taught grades 1-3 for seven years. She was succeeded by Sister Mary Josephine who taught for eight years up to the closing of the school in 1902.

Florence Kiefer and Cora Pinter were the last teachers to be hired by the township trustee for Schererville School. Other teachers who taught from 1905, when the school reopened, until 1910 were Maggie Weis and Cecilia and Rose Ludwig.

When Schererville Schools came under the jurisdiction of the Schererville School Board in 1913, Verona Haag was completing the contract she had been given by Trustee Frank Scheidt to teach at Hartsdale for the 1912-1913 term.

1913 - 1941

On December 6, 1912, the School Board, which had been appointed by the Town Board for the newly-formed School Town of Schererville, met to organize. Simon Swets was elected president; George N. Gard, treasurer; and Mathias Seberger, secretary.

The County Superintendent remained the superintendent of Schererville Schools and the county office continued to furnish services such as textbook selection, testing, recording licenses and supplying various part-time teachers and supervisors. The township trustee, though having no jurisdiction, worked closely with the board in arranging pupil transfers and combining facilities for transportation.

The new board inherited a brick schoolhouse at Schererville which, though only twenty years old, was in very bad repair from having stood vacant and untended for four years. Also in their legacy was the one-room Hartsdale School, then in session and under the supervision of a capable teacher. Though it was sitting on low ground and often surrounded by mudholes, it was in fair condition and well-equipped for a school of its time.

The board proceeded to the immediate tasks of hiring teachers, determining bus driver and janitor contracts, and arranging for transfer of pupils to Dyer High School. For the first time, through arrangement with Supt. Heighway, the school hired a supervisor of instruction.

Miss Verona Haag, who for the last two years had been teaching at Hartsdale School under the township trustee, became the first to teach for the School Town of Schererville. She continued to teach there for six years and then taught in Schererville School until 1938. Her teaching career, which spanned 29 years, was ended by an auto accident which resulted in her death.

During all these years, so-called Circuit Teachers were hired part time for special subjects. Sometimes the arrangement was made in cooperation with the trustee and sometimes with the county superintendent. Mrs. Otto Steifel, who taught music and drawing, was the first such teacher hired by the board. Others were Hazel Henderson, Lucille Morrison, Miss Englund and Bessie Black. Beginning in 1924, Vada McPherson taught music in Schererville one day a week for 13 years.

Michael Stephen, who had driven since 1907 for



Township #1 school with the school "buses" waiting. School was used until 1941, but the buses stopped eating hay.

Trustees Weis and Betterman, became the first bus driver for the School Town of Schererville. While working construction on the Pennsylvania Railroad in the early 1900's Mr. Stephen suffered a serious spinal injury which resulted in severe crippling. Though not able to take care of his own wagon and horses, with the faithful assistance of his brother, John, he managed to drive the bus until 1909. At that time the bus was discontinued because only three children were going to Dyer High School.

This early route started at the Schererville Post Office, went to Dyer and then returned to the same spot. The contract provided for a wage of \$2.00 per day with the stipulation that the driver be paid fifty cents for each mile over four if the route was extended. The driver must provide a comfortable wagon to be used for a school bus and for no other purpose. He must provide a team of horses of sufficient size, strength and speed to convey children at a reasonable rate and of sufficient gentleness to be controlled. On arriving at the school, the driver must report to the principal: (1) Time of starting, (2) Time of arrival at school, (3) Enrollment of the wagon and (4) Attendance for the day. The foregoing are only a few of the five pages of regulations in the record book.

The next year an agreement with the township provided that Mr. Stephen would pick up township elementary pupils living along the route and deliver them to Dyer School. In return, the trustee would furnish the wagon and free tuition for pupils attending the high school and would pay half of the driver's salary.

By the term 1917-18, seventeen children were being transferred to Dyer High School at a tuition of one dollar per month per child. At this time Henry Ford's Tin Lizzie had been in use for some years. However the mode of transporting school children remained the horse and wagon. As a point of interest, the first Ford dealership in Lake County was operated by the Fitch Brothers of Dyer.

Mike's brother, John, recalled a day when Mike gave service far beyond the demands of his contract. The area was experiencing a severe blizzard. Toward noon, as the storm became worse, Mike got permission from the trustee to start to Dyer to pick up the children. By the time he got to the Bush farm, the blizzard had become blinding and the roads impassable. Mr. Bush walked to Dyer to make arrangements for the children to stay overnight. It was only by cutting fences and crossing fields that Mike was able to get the wagon and team to Dyer the next day.

By 1916, wagons had been replaced by neat-looking horse-drawn hacks with curtains that could be pulled down to protect the occupants from the weather. In December of that year, the board agreed to buy a fourteen foot bus from Studebaker in South Bend. Studebaker was still in the wagon business and this was not a motorized bus, but instead an elegant horse-drawn bus with glass instead of curtains. The cost was \$215.25.

Mr. G. VanProoyen, the first janitor to serve the new school corporation, took care of Hartsdale School for three years. Then Ben DeMaar served Hartsdale until its closing in 1921.

Between 1913 and 1920, every year but one saw at least one change in the personnel of the school board. By 1920, the original school board had been replaced completely. Those succeeding George Gard were William Govert, William Hilbrich, Frank Homan and Joseph Homan. In 1916, Mr. Swets was replaced by Nicholas Schafer and, in 1918, J.J. Reiplinger succeeded Mathias Seberger. The 1920 Board consisted of Joseph Homan, President; J.J. Reiplinger, Secretary; and Nicholas Schafer, Treasurer. Schafer served until 1939.

Throughout the entire span of years between 1913 and 1940 every school struggled with the problem of determining the most practicable way to provide a suitable schoolhouse for the children of Schererville. The minutes of the board meetings unfold the story of 27 years of effort to determine whether money available could best be used to build a new school at Hartsdale, to build a school at Schererville, or to repair the old two-story brick building. In the meantime, until 1921, school continued to be held at Hartsdale.

In September of 1913 and most of the years thereafter, the board voted to buy Reading Circle books. The books were chosen by a committee from the State Teachers' Association and were considered to represent the best of current children's literature. These Reading Circle books, together with those purchased earlier by the trustees, formed the nucleus of the current Schererville school library.

The following Reading Circle books, purchased in 1913, are typical.

Stories of Famous Pictures Book 2
Cherry Tree Children
Nixie Bunny in Manners Land
Boy Scouts of Birch Bark Island
Barbara's Phillipine Journey
When Sarah Went to School
On the Trail of Grant and Lee
Fables from Afar
Old Mother West Wind
Tales of the Romans
Robin Hood
Peggy Owen Patriot
Joe the Book Farmer
Secret of the Clan
Young Shippers of Great Lakes
Blue Bonnet's Ranch Party
Phoebe and Ernest
Also a Dog
Our Common Friends and Foes

In 1914, in response to a petition with 58 names, the board voted to give the Junior Baseball Team the privilege of using the vacant school for entertainment. They voted also to restrict its use in the future to activities which would benefit the town. They asked the town board "to keep the building in repair for use of same." The town board refused. Either coincidentally, or significantly, the



next order of business read "Berwanger hired to put new lock on schoolhouse door."

The vacant schoolhouse continued to be a concern. Fences were broken down, the yard was covered with weeds, window panes were broken and the building was in bad repair both inside and out.



St. Michael's in the 1920's



Building St. Michael's School in 1916.

In February 1915, in anticipation of holding school there, the board asked for bids on extensive repairs on the Schererville schoolhouse. Repairs included a cement walk on the south frontage, two coats of Alstucco paint on the east, west and north sides of the building, replacement of twenty window panes, fences built and grass sown. A few months later the schoolhouse was rewired and drop fixtures were installed.

Hartsdale also received its share of attention. The yard was cleaned and low places filled and trees trimmed. Inside, the walls were calcimined, desks cleaned and repaired and a \$100 Columbia Graphophone was added to the equipment.

In 1917, the board considered building a new schoolhouse at Hartsdale but tabled the vote until the next meeting. They voted against building a new schoolhouse at Schererville; instead, they voted to ask Supt. Heighway what would be necessary to open Schererville School. His answer was, "In no way can Schererville School be put in condition to use without great expense."

In spite of difficulties, in July, 1918, the board voted to leave Hartsdale School open and to open the lower room of Schererville School. More repairs were made, a well drilled and a \$400 furnace installed. Quite an adequate list of supplies was ordered. Included in the list was a sixteen inch bust of Woodrow Wilson. At Hartsdale a 6' x 6' addition was put on the coal shed, window screens were installed and a flagpole and lantern slide projector were furnished.

Marie Erb was hired as teacher for Schererville School. When Miss Erb resigned the next year, Ruth Perry taught at Hartsdale and Miss Haag was transferred to Schererville.

Hartsdale was closed permanently in 1921 and Schererville School was the only public school in the town. The little one-room schoolhouse remained on the spot where it was built until 30 years ago when it caught fire. Since it was too dilapidated to be of any use to anyone, it was allowed to burn to the ground.

Some interesting single items from the 1917-21 minutes follow:

March 1917 - George Schutz paid \$1.60 for 8 hours work shoveling snow at 20 cents per hour.

March 19 - Wrote again to Munster about transfers and \$2.50 tuition for 5 pupils. Munster school board replied and asked what the \$2.50 tuition was for.

April 1917 - School cleaned belfry. Insurance considerably lowered.

March 1919 - Petition read by which Lake County Teachers demanded 50% increase. Miss Haag appeared to report that Miss Perry and Miss Haag were satisfied and were not making that demand.

June 1920 - Voted to build fence around schoolyard to keep out cattle and other farm animals.

Sept 1920 - Miss Haag given permission to buy a croquet set.

June 7, 1921 - Miss Haag asks \$175 per month for teaching. Board disagreed. Miss Haag refused to

teach for less.

June 21, 1921 - Special meeting. Miss Haag signs contract for \$160.

July 24, 1921 - Special meeting called for ordering 2 Standard Automatic toilets.

In 1920, the school attorney notified the school board that the law required a bus for children who live 1 1/2 miles or more from the schoolhouse. In compliance, the board hired August Schulte, who served as bus driver until 1926.

Until 1923, most pupils from Schererville had attended high school at Dyer. After that they were transferred to Griffith until 1929, when, because ten pupils expressed their wish to attend Dyer High School, the bus route was changed to Dyer.

The first motorized transportation of students finally came in 1926 when the board bought a motor bus. J. M. Reiplinger was the first driver of this new transportation mode. He drove for four years and was followed by James Kroozwyck after that.

One of the students of that time recalled at Centennial time a near accident between the bus and a switch engine. An investigation was held by Joseph Homan, school board president, and the entire switch crew. The conclusion reached was that the engineer took the signal to the bus driver to be his signal and both train and bus proceeded at the same time. Shaken nerves were the only damage.

In April of 1931, Mr. Kolling's bus bid was lowest. He became the driver that year and continued until his retirement in 1963.

When school was held again in the two-story brick building, Peter Stephen was employed as janitor and served the school for seven years. He was followed by Frank Scholl, Peter Cope and William Schafer, each working one school term. Beginning in 1928, John Thiel served the school until his last illness in 1951.

In 1924, the school board discussed the matter of taking in Elliot School, as proposed by Supt. Condon, and agreed to interview Elliot patrons. Three years later the matter again arose and the board agreed to take Elliot students by transfer only, and only if the patrons indicated by petition to the trustee, Michael Seberger, that it was their wish. Finally, in a special meeting with Mr. Condon in 1928, the board agreed to the transfer. The board bought the furniture from Elliot School and hired a second teacher to take care of the 38 additional pupils. This event marked the closing of the last one-room district school in St. John Township.

Mrs. Theresa Audo taught with Miss Haag at Schererville until 1933, when, because of board policy against hiring married women teachers, Miss Irma Tabor was hired to take her place. Kathryn Slocomb replaced Miss Tabor and Elizabeth Lawler was hired in 1938 to fill the vacancy caused by Miss Haag's death.

In April 1938, the school board met in special session with Albert Turner, architect, and Edwin F. Knight, school attorney, to make plans for building a new school. Soon thereafter, bonds were sold and bids received with construction beginning in 1939.

In the meantime, the board found it necessary to rent a room from St. Michael's School to take care of the overcrowding. Loretta Cullen was hired to teach grades 1-3 in the rented room. Lucille Davis taught grades 4-6 and Miss Lawler handled grades 7-8.

In October 1938, Lester Bowen was appointed to the board to replace Mr. Reiplinger, who resigned after 20 years of faithful service. The following year, Alfred Peifer replaced Nicholas Schafer, who had been a valuable servant to Schererville Schools for 24 years. George Hershman became the school attorney.

Though quite definite steps toward starting a school were taken that evening in 1938, the school was not ready for use until the term of 1941-42. The school was being built by Work Progress Administration and because WPA had no bricklayers available to do the job, there was a long delay while the architect was seeking permission to hire union bricklayers. Securing approval of an additional \$5,000 bond issue to cover the added cost of union labor further delayed the completion of the school.

In the fall of 1941, one room of the new building was furnished and was used by Miss Lawler and her 7-8 grade class. The whole building was ready for use the second semester.

Since the new four-room building had an unused room. Trustee Michael Kolling and Supt. Grayson asked to rent it to relieve the crowded condition in St. John Township. The board refused to rent it, but agreed to accept the students as transfers.

The old school was appraised, and on May 16, 1942 it was sold to Elmer Jack, a local teacher, for \$207.50. Much of the material from this school went into Elmer's home. The home was later acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Reed. After the deaths of the Reeds, the property was purchased by a local developer. The home was torn down and the new



Township school around 1940.

Schererville Branch of the Bank of Highland now stands in its place. The street is still named Reed Lane. And so ends the era of education of Schererville children in the early township buildings.

1941 — 1966

The new building, finished in 1941, contained four classrooms, two rest rooms, a principal's office, library, corridor and boiler room. Impressive as it was, the building, alone, did not account for the rapid change from the small-school era which was appearing about that time all over Lake County. True, the new building was a morale builder and gave all concerned a hopeful, forward look, but much more was involved. Enrollment increased from approximately 100 in 1940 to 466 in 1966. New school laws appearing in the forties upgraded teacher education and made teaching more attractive as a career. New equipment, new techniques and the constant and rapid changes occurring in all phases of living help to explain the startling changes of the last twenty-five years.



Old part of Township School looking at its east side. It was built in 1892 and torn down in 1941 for the new Homan School.

During the years immediately following the opening of the new school much attention was given to supplying adequate equipment. Joe Homan and John Kolling built units of shelving to extend the length of the library on both sides, and the library, started by Zippie Davis and continued by Miss Haag, finally had a home. Books, reference sets, maps and charts were added.

The schoolyard was leveled and sown with grass, playground equipment was purchased and parking areas were blacktopped. Fluorescent lights were installed a room at a time until finally all four rooms were equipped.

The children collected newspapers throughout the town to accumulate funds to buy a movie projector. The school board, PTA and Lions Club, appreciating the efforts of the children, each contributed toward the project to complete the amount needed. The films shown were black and white and certainly not the attractive films seen by children today, but the enthusiasm of the pupils on film day made the tedium of setting up 100 or more chairs in the corridor worth the effort.

The attractive, well-equipped building was greatly appreciated by both teachers and pupils. It is to the credit of pupils, parents and teachers that the school remained free from any willful damage—with a couple of exceptions.

It was a moment of great consternation when one night the board showed the teachers numerous ink spots on the ceilings of all but the first and second grade room. Teachers stood shamefacedly as Mr. Peifer demonstrated how ink could be thrown to the ceiling with the flip of a fountain pen in the hands of unruly boys. Teachers were warned and forgiven and the spots were removed by the custodian. A few weeks later the spots again appeared. Teachers were mystified and the board again admonished them to be more watchful. But even as they spoke, Sherlock Peifer, pointed to an open inkwell in the corner of a desk and said, "Elementary, Dr. Watson!" Flies, gloriously drunk, were crawling from the inkwells on each desk and flying to the ceiling to spend the night.

By the fall of 1948, the school was filled to capacity and enrollments continued to increase. To alleviate the crowded condition, and to provide a community meeting place and facilities for athletic activities, plans were made to add a gymnasium area to the north side of the building.

On November 29, 1948, a special meeting was called by the school board. Present, in addition to the board, were Martin Teibel, Simeon Carahoff and Al Schreiber, all town board members, and Joe Zimmer, clerk-treasurer. Albert Turner, architect, gave an estimate of \$48,000-\$50,000 for the new gym annex. The town board agreed to issue bonds up to \$16,000 to help finance the project and Mr. Turner was instructed to proceed with the blueprints.

In the meantime, large enrollments in the first and second grades made it necessary to separate them. As a result, the library shelves were moved into the hall and a teacher hired to set up a second grade class in the cramped quarters of the library.

By 1950, the Gerometto Construction Company had completed the addition, which included, besides the gym, a large meeting room, kitchen, rest rooms, lobby, ticket office and cloak room. Almost from their completion, the kitchen and meeting room were used as classrooms and, for awhile, classes were held in the gym.

The gym became a center for activities and meetings for the Schererville community. Difficulty in scheduling the numerous requests made it necessary for the board to adopt a policy. Public School activities were to be given first consideration

and St. Michael's School second. After that, others would be considered as they could be scheduled. Saturday recreation, with paid supervision, has been provided for the winter months most of the years since the gym was erected. The program has been open to both public and parochial schools and to the high school boys as well.

Various groups have shown appreciation for the gym facility by donating for its equipment. The PTA furnished a stove and sink for an improvised kitchen in the cloakroom off the lobby and a public address system for the gym. The Schererville for Youth Club, through their weekly Saturday sock hops, collected more than \$600, which they presented to the school for bleachers. Money collected by school children through the sales of seeds, Christmas cards and magazines, together with receipts from school candy sales and money collected for advertising in the school paper, paid for the scoreboard and many other pieces of valuable equipment.

All through the years, the PTA has added books, filmstrips or other equipment specified by the administration and faculty. Cooperation from the Lions Club and numerous individuals, along with the willingness of the school board to provide what was needed, made this a well-equipped school for its day.

In 1954, a contract was given to Elmer Lottes to build an addition at each end of the original structure. This addition provided two large classrooms and an extension to the library and the office. Added also were boys' and girls' shower rooms in the gym area.

Though every available spot was being used for classrooms, by 1957 more space was needed. Again, Albert Turner, who had been the architect for all the building done by the School Town of Schererville, drew the plans, and Henderlong Lumber Company was given the contract to build an addition east and

south from the gym area. This addition included two classrooms, two rest rooms, nurse's room, teachers' lounge, book-storage room, men's lounge and a stage with a dressing room under it on the east end of the gym.

From the first use of the addition, the book room was used as a classroom, the men's lounge as a combined teachers' workroom and nurse's room and the room under the stage became the boys' shop. This being the year that a superintendent was added to the staff, the nurse's room was needed for an office.

In 1955, the PTA mothers took the responsibility for setting up a book rental system. They kept it in operation for three years. After that it went under the supervision of the school system.

In 1960, the school board adopted a resolution that the Schererville School be named Homan School for its oldest member, Joe Homan. He had been president of the school board when the school opened in 1941. He was to remain a valuable member of the board until his death in 1960. A dinner was given for Mr. Homan in recognition of 40 years of untiring service to the school.

In 1958, the board asked the State Department of Public Education for an inspection to determine the school's classification. On May 16, 1958, the school was issued a certificate of First Class Commission, one of a very few in the state at that time.

In issuing the certificate, the state considered that plans were already made to build a Home Economics & Shop annex and stated that the present deficiency in that area was outweighed by teacher training and excellence of instruction, a well-equipped library, the year book and school paper, the gymnasium program, the music and art departments, excellent equipment and special teachers.

In 1959, William Lottes was given a contract to build an addition north of the gym which was intended for the Home Economics & Shop area. The home economics room, while well equipped for sewing and cooking, was also supplied with a Wurlitzer piano, a record player and records and other needs for a music room. The shop area, by use of partitions, was adapted for use as a kindergarten, a general classroom and a shop.

Hartley, Inc. laid 1,000 square feet of concrete to the north and east of the addition. A new boiler room, built in 1960, completed the structure, at the time of the Centennial, known as Homan School.

As early as 1959, in anticipation of future needs, the board purchased 20 acres of land for a school site on Cline Avenue. In 1961, Van Keppel construction Company completed a school on this site. Included in the building were six classrooms for grades 1-3, library, office area, teachers' room, boiler room, rest rooms, corridor and receiving room.

As at Homan School, much of the equipment for Peifer School was furnished by the board but, credit is due the PTA, who furnished books, outdoor fountains, audiovisual equipment and film strips. Trees were planted by the Women's Club.

In September, 1961, the school board adopted a



Homan School in 1950.



Peifer School from N.W. corner

resolution that "inasmuch as Mr. Peifer has lived in Schererville all his life, has served as treasurer of the board for 20 years and now, as president, is a member of the Fire Department, is one of the founders of Little League and has assisted in many civic enterprises, in recognition of valuable services, the school on Cline Avenue shall be named the Alfred M. Peifer School."

In 1960, Peifer School was inspected and given a certificate of First Class Commission. At the same time the first class commission for Homan School was renewed with the kindergarten included in the classification.

In 1965, Francis Bieker received the contract to build an addition to Peifer School. This addition included nine classrooms, rest rooms and a finished excavation underneath for future needs.

From the beginning, public high school education for Schererville youth was provided by transfer. Since 1929, transportation was provided regularly to the St. John Township High School at Dyer. Pupils who chose to enroll at Hammond or Griffith were responsible for their own transportation. At the 100 year mark for Schererville, Dyer High School was the secondary education site for most of the teens from Schererville.

Looking back to the Centennial Year of 1966, Schererville was still a small town in many ways. It was a very rural community with strong family ties. Everyone was related to everyone else in some manner. The population had just popped over the 3,000 mark. The last twenty-five years have been like an explosion. The population has grown to over 19,000 and it shows no signs of stopping. Nowhere has this been more felt than in the area of education.

School Personnel 1941 - 1966

Many individuals have served Schererville schools

over the years. From 1941 to 1966 more than forty teachers have had a part in the progress of Schererville schools. As time goes on and the numbers increase, it is not possible or reasonable to mention all. History should note that Schererville, like most other school districts, did not employ married women as teachers for many years. It was in 1943 when the board voted to employ married women teachers until single teachers were again available. Apparently the board never went back to the single-women policy of before. The basis for this deduction is that Mrs. Protsman was employed in 1943 and she continued to be employed until her retirement in 1965. In addition, in 1946, both James Watson and his wife, Pauline, were hired as teachers.

There were other support personnel that were important to the operation of the schools during this time period. Janitors by the name of John Thiel, Florence Hilbrich and John and Ann Kolling are some of them. John Kolling also drove a school bus for 32 years from April 1, 1931, until his retirement in 1963. Until 1958, he was the only bus driver. Then some part-time drivers were hired as the routes expanded.

This has been a rather in-depth look at Schererville schools during the first 100 years. Since Schererville was a very stable town most of the residents at the Centennial Year could reflect upon their past childhood with attendance in one of the schools.

Education — The Past Twenty-Five Years

Shortly after Schererville's 100th Birthday, the Lake Central School Corporation was formed. On January 1, 1967, under provisions of Indiana Code 20-4, the next era of education began. Lake Central School Corporation now consists of the previous school districts of the School Town of Schererville



James Watson, Alfred Peifer, Dr. Robert Grove, Robert Gentz and Peter Keckich



and St. John Township Schools (made up of the towns of Dyer and St. John and St. John Township). The total land area of the school district is approximately 36 square miles. The 1990-91 student enrollment was 6,750. The district is governed by a five member Board of School Trustees elected to staggered four-year terms.

The Lake Central Schools consist of one high, two middle and six elementary schools.

Lake Central High School - 8400 Wicker Ave., St. John

Grimmer Middle School - 225 W. 77th Ave., Schererville

Kahler Middle School - 452 Elm St., Dyer

Bibich Elementary School - 14600 W. 81st St., Dyer

Homan Elementary School - 240 E. Joliet St., Schererville

Kolling Elementary School - 8801 Wicker Ave., St. John

Peifer Elementary School - 1824 Cline Ave., Schererville

Protsman Elementary School - 1121 Harrison St., Dyer

Watson Elementary School - 333 W. 77th Ave., Schererville

The school corporation is administered by a central office staff led by the Superintendent of Schools. The superintendents for the past 25 years have been George Bibich - 1967-1977, Don Guilford - 1977-1982 and Thomas Roman - 1982-present.

School Reorganization

The State of Indiana promoted school reorganization during the 1960's. Among other requirements for a district to be independent were enrollment, curriculum and financial criteria. The leadership of the Town of Schererville desired to be an independent school district. Although the school district did not meet the state's enrollment requirements, the school added to the curriculum in 1966 and started its own high school.

The middle and high school grades were housed at the Homan building and the elementary grades were at the Peifer School. James Watson served as Superintendent of Schools, Peter Keckich and Dave Andrews as principals at Peifer and Cornelius Vanderholk was the high school principal.

Citizens of the area had defeated two previous votes on school reorganization, but in 1966 approved the combining of the Schererville and St. John Township schools to make the new Lake Central School Corporation. Mr. George Bibich became Superintendent of the new district and James Watson became Assistant Superintendent for Business. The first School Board was composed of William Graham and Nick Kuhn of Schererville, Bernie Jostes of the St. John Township, Bert Ratcliff of Dyer and Louis Cinko of St. John. Joe Bomersback replaced Mr. Cinko in July 1967.

In August of 1967 Homan and Peifer schools became elementary (K-5) schools. Schererville



Homan School. The tree used to be behind the John Schweitzer house later Tiny Tot Pre-School and still later torn down.

middle school age children attended Kahler Middle School in Dyer and high school students went to Lake Central High School. Grimmer Middle School was opened in the fall of 1974.

Homan School

Children of Schererville have attended school at the Joliet Street site of Homan School since 1869. The present facility has had additions or alterations in 1940, 1950, 1969, 1980 and 1991. The construction currently underway will, in effect, be a completely new school with the present building being used only for kindergarten, special education classes and special education administration. The capacity of Homan School in 1990 was about 300 students. In 1992, the capacity will be about 600 students.

The past 25 years have been varied for Homan School. During the 1966-67 school year Homan served as both a middle school and a high school for Schererville. After school reorganization, Homan again became an elementary school for grades K-5. Homan was closed and its students and staff moved to the new Watson Elementary School in January of 1978. After renovations, Homan was reopened as an elementary school in August of 1980 and continues in that role today. Beginning in 1992 Homan School will not only be a modern elementary school, but will also be a model special education site.

Principals of Homan School since the Centennial Year have been as follows: Cornelius Vanderholk 1966-67, David Andrews 1967-78, James Watson 1980-82, Anthony Arini 1982-86 and Mark Kellogg 1986-91.

Peifer School

Peifer School was built in 1961 with additions in 1965, 1971, 1987, 1990 and 1991. The 1990

addition was a classroom wing with a commons area. The 1991 addition is a media center (library). The capacity of the school is now rated at 600.

Peifer has always served as an elementary school. Because of the growth of the east side of the town of Schererville, many new residents have been introduced to our community through Peifer School.

Richard Baer has served as principal from 1967 to the present time.

Peifer School is named, as previously mentioned, in honor of Alfred Peifer.



Peifer School in 1966

Watson Elementary School

Watson Elementary School was named in honor of James H. Watson. He served as Superintendent of the Schererville Schools from 1957-1967, Assistant Superintendent of Lake Central Schools 1967-1980 and as principal in various buildings from 1946-57 and 1980-82.

Watson School opened its doors in January of 1978. All of Homan School students moved to Watson and Homan was temporarily closed. Some students who formerly attended Peifer or Kolling were transferred to Watson. Growing student enrollment resulted in portable classrooms being installed in 1988. Additional classrooms and a student commons were opened in the fall of 1990. Watson School houses the school district's gifted program and several special education programs. It has an enrollment of about 600.

David Andrews has served as Watson principal from 1977 to the present after serving as Homan principal from 1967-77. He will complete his 31st year of service to Schererville schools in this 125th year of Schererville.



Watson Grade School

Grimmer Middle School

The Michael Grimmer School is one of two middle schools in the Lake Central School Corporation. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students residing in the towns of Schererville and St. John and the east side of St. John Township attend Grimmer. The enrollment has been, for the most part, in the eight hundreds since the school opened in the fall of 1974.

Over the past 25 years the middle school age children attended school as follows: 1966-67 Homan High School, 1967-74 Kahler Middle School in Dyer, and 1974 to the present at the Grimmer Middle School on 77th Avenue in Schererville.

The emphasis at the middle school level is



Grimmer Middle School

exposure to many different opportunities while still maintaining a strong program in basic academic subjects. Athletics for both boys and girls, band and chorus, interest and service clubs, and academic related organizations are available to all students.

The school is named in honor of Michael Grimmer, noted early Schererville pioneer (see biographical sketch in first part of book).

The principals at Grimmer School have been Viern (Jack) Richardson 1974-85, Rodney Ely 1985-87 and Kenneth Miller 1987 to the present.

Lake Central High School

Since 1967 Schererville high school age students have attended Lake Central High School which is located just south of the Schererville town limits in the town of St. John. Prior to 1966, most Schererville students attended Dyer Central High School on a tuition basis. In 1966, Schererville started its own high school, but it served only ninth grade students while other students continued as they had in the past. After school reorganization in 1967, all high school age students attended Lake Central.

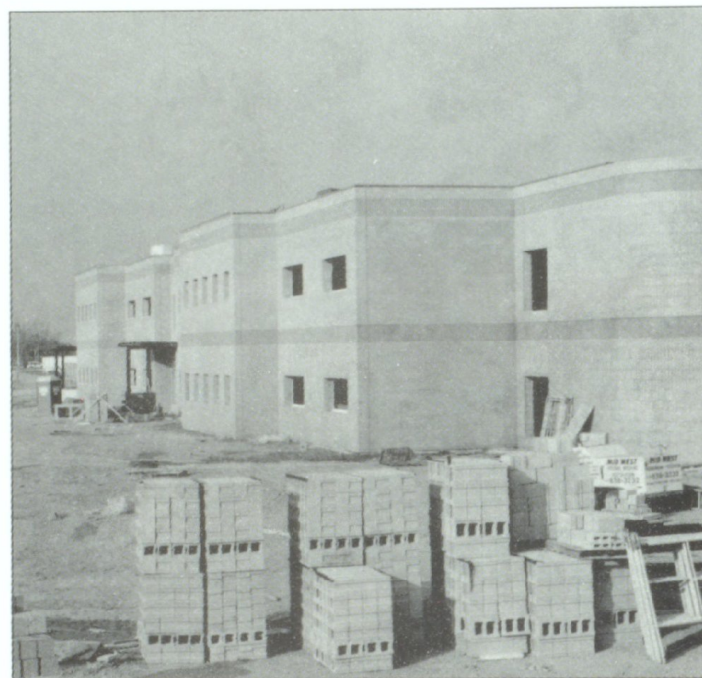
Lake Central High School is a comprehensive high school which offers programs in precollege, vocational training, business education and general education.

Choral, band, theater, service clubs, academic clubs and a full program of athletics for both male and female students are offered.

Enrollment has grown from about 1,300 in 1967 to about 2,200 in 1991. Major additions to the high school were added in 1971, 1976, 1977, 1987, and 1991. After completion of the present building program, LC will be able to accommodate about 3,000 students.



Lake Central and its logo.



The new Lake Central Freshman wing under construction.

The principalship for Lake Central High School has been in the hands of Fred Jones 1966-1974, Glen Eberly 1974-1977, Terry Jukes 1977-1978, Joe Clune 1978-1980, Bernie Krueger 1980-1990 and Jerry Newell 1990-1991.

Other Lake Central Schools

In addition to those schools serving Schererville students, Lake Central School Corporation has additional schools in Dyer and St. John.

Kahler Middle School is located just off of U.S. 30 in Dyer. It accommodates 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who reside in Dyer and the west half of St.



Lake Central High School



John Township. The enrollment at Kahler is over 600 and the principal is Jean Wease.

Kolling Elementary School is located on U.S. 41 in the town of St. John. Kolling services students in the town of St. John and the south part of St. John Township. The enrollment is about 500 and Nancy Sanasack is the principal.

Protsman Elementary School is in Dyer and is named in honor of Roscoe Protsman who was a Schererville resident and taught in the St. John Township schools for forty years. The Protsman family resided at 317 E. Joliet Street. The enrollment at Protsman is in the 500's and its principal is Bruce Schooler.

Bibich Elementary School was a companion building to the Watson School, both built in 1977. The George Bibich School is named in honor of the long-time school administrator and the first Superintendent of the Lake Central Schools. Bibich School is located on 81st Street in Dyer and has an enrollment between 500-600 students. The Bibich School principal is Anthony Arini.

West Lake Special Education Cooperative supervises special programs for handicapped students. West Lake is a cooperative venture with the Munster School Corporation and the Lake Central School Corporation. Classes are held in all Lake Central buildings and all Munster buildings. A few students with uncommon handicaps are transferred to other school districts. The West Lake Special Education Cooperative is directed by Michael Livovich.



Gladys and Roscoe Protsman

Transportation

Prior to 1972, both the Schererville schools and St. John Township schools contracted with individuals who owned and operated their school buses. In

1972, Lake Central bought their own buses and built a school-bus barn south of Kolling School. As the community grew and more schools were built, more and more buses were added to the fleet. Most buses run three routes A.M. and P.M. The present bus facility was built in 1980.

Food Service

Hot meals are served in all Lake Central schools as well as the three parochial schools. Lunches at Lake Central High School are prepared and served at the high school. All other meals are prepared at the Grimmer School kitchen and transported either in "bulk" containers or in individually packed lunches to the eleven area schools. Around 3,000 lunches are served each day. This district-wide program was started in 1974.

Health Care and Social Services

All Lake Central Schools have a nurse in the building whenever students are in attendance. State and County health rules are supplemented by school board regulations. Education, prevention and individual care are offered. The school district has, for the past few years, provided social workers to assist students with special problems.

Parent Support and Assistance Over The Years

The Schererville Parent Teacher Association was organized on September 21, 1937, with 33 charter members. The first president was Mr. L.E. Cook. There were just two faculty members at that time, Miss Elizabeth Lawler and Miss Kathryn Slocomb. In the Centennial Year, Bud Phillips held the position of president.

Parent assistance is clearly evident in the Lake Central Schools in Schererville's 125th year. In the elementary schools, room mothers, learning center helpers, volunteer tutors and special project helpers can be seen daily supporting the professional staff. Parent-teacher organizations assist the schools with open houses, fund raising, and provide special materials. Parent advisory groups are active in all schools and provide feedback, as well as being a "sounding board" for new ideas. Band Boosters, Athletic Boosters and extracurricular help are important at the Lake Central Schools. The total enrollment of all district schools in the school year 1990-91 of 6,797 students provide a big need for the continued support and cooperation of the parent groups with the Lake Central School District.





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The Pete Redar Family

Born in 1896, Pete Redar was the son of Mathias Redar and Susan (Shoemaker). He spent his early years with his family on a 40 acre farm located on Cline Ave., just north of where the Fire Station is now. He attended St. Michaels School and Church as did his sister Marie and his five brothers.

Pete served in WWI and was honorably discharged in 1919 when the war ended. He then came home to Schererville and besides farming was also a milkman for a few years.

Pete started his police career in 1927 when he was hired as the Town Marshall. This was a one-man job in those early years. He also was the water superintendent, dog catcher, snow plow driver, and even mowed the park during the summer. He had many jobs besides being the only policeman. I can remember him saying many times that he had more trouble with the dogs in town than the people.

In 1936 Pete married Emma (Schmidt) of Crown Point. Her parents were John and Anna (Hasse). They were of German decent and also farmers by trade. Emma was the eldest of four children and the only daughter. Since Emma lost her father at the early age of 12, she and her brothers took jobs immediately after 8th grade. They all went to school in Hanover. They needed to work to keep their farm during those hard depression years.

Emma's first job was as a live-in maid for a family in Hammond. She worked for them until a small diner opened on Rt. 41 & 30, which is known as Teibels. Emma was one of the original waitresses and always said she enjoyed working there for many years.



Marlin, Emma (Schmidt) Redar, Gerald, Evelyn, Pete, Lenore

Pete and Emma started a family in 1937. They had four children: Gerald, Lenore, Marlin & Evelyn. Gerald lives in California. He and his wife Corinne have four children, Mark, David (deceased), Sean & Cynthia.

Lenore lives in Wisconsin and she and her husband, Ralph Robers have one daughter, Erika.

Marlin lives in Portage with his wife, Alice.

Evelyn is married to Bill Mathews and they have four children: Paul, Laurian, Lisa & Lynn. They live in Schererville.

Pete died in 1964 after 37 years of service to the Town and Emma just recently passed away in 1993.

Pete and Emma were both very active in the Town of Schererville. The Police Dept., Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and Fire Auxiliary were a few of the organizations they were involved in. They cared very much about the town and the people in it.

We are very proud of our parents and grandparents and the time they spent in forming the town.

Submitted by the Families of Pete & Emma Redar

Ronald Schweder



Ronald Schweder, born February 15, 1932 and Patricia (Hawkins), born November 7, 1937 were married October 13, 1956, at St. Joseph's Church, Hammond. They had two children, Bryan and Jackie. Ron and Pat moved to Schererville in 1975, a year after Ron was named Schererville's Police Chief. They still reside on St. John Road. Ron was a police officer in Highland for five years and St. John's Police Chief for three years. In 1974, when Ron came to Schererville, the police station was not open 24 hours. The people had to call the Dyer Police and they relayed the message to Schererville's squad car. The first thing Ron did was to set up 24 hour service at our own station. Ron retired 2/26/85 after approximately 11 years of dedicated service.

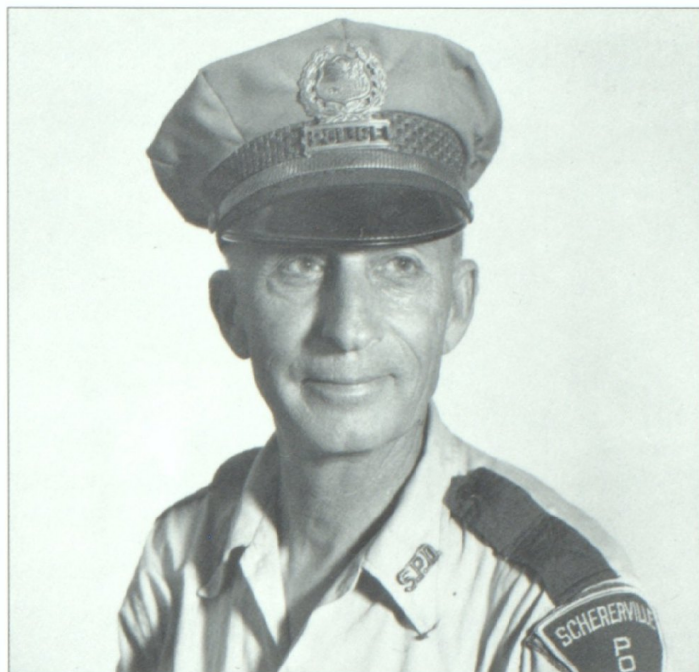
TOWN DEPARTMENTS, ETC.

History of Police Department

Michael Steuer was our first officially appointed Marshal. He took charge of the policing duties on September 30, 1911. He had no office except his home on Wilhelm Street. He had no jail except the one at Crown Point. His protection was his billyclub and a star. Most of his time was spent in walking up and down the main street of the town and "patrolling" in front of Gard's Store. He retired in 1925. His deputy was Fred F. Henderlong. Mr. Steuer died in 1932.

Peter Cope, who lived at 36 Wilhelm Street, was our next Marshal. His uniform was said to be a black vest and his star. Cope, however, had a gun for his weapon. His patrol car was his own Model T Ford. His term of office, lasting for just two years, began on April 4, 1925.

Peter Redar, who lived on a farm on Cline Avenue with his family, was hired on July 7, 1927, and was a policeman for Schererville until his death on August 4, 1964. He began his tenure as Marshal with a Model T and later graduated to a Model A. These automobiles, as well as all future ones until the early 50's, were Pete's personal autos which he used as police cars. At one time, in his early career, he could be seen riding along on his motorcycle complete with uniform and puttees. Before the police cars had a radio hook-up, a signal system was in effect for the police department. It consisted of a phone and two



Pete Redar - 1st Chief of Police

porch lights. Mr. Redar would take all phone calls at his home and when the police were on patrol they would watch for the porch light. If the light went on, they were to come up to the house and find out what the trouble was. This "modern" system was used into the early 60's according to Bob Florkiewicz, a retired former Schererville policeman. In 1956 the Schererville Police Radio was connected to the Highland-Griffith Radio System. Pete's first deputy-marshal was Philip Spivak who began his duties on November 1, 1955. These two law enforcement agents kept order in our town by putting in many, many hours on duty. On January 1, 1961, Bob Florkiewicz joined the staff and everyone was, more or less, on a regular shift.



Peter Redar and his deputies. This is when Pete was called Marshal Redar. Left to right: Tom Long, John Stephen, Joe Zimmer, James Westerfield, Gene Wall, Phil Spivak, John Seaman, Pete Redar and Bob Teegarden.





Left to right: Patrolman William Ellis, Sergeant Robert Florkiewicz, Police Chief Philip Spivak, Patrolman Elmer Doctor.



Pete Redar in front of an early 60's squad car.



Chief Jesse Cook, in the new police office. Note previously pictured house across from office on Joliet along the tracks.

Pete Redar was made Chief-of-Police on May 4, 1964, by order of the Town Board and a Metropolitan Police Force was formed on August 3, 1964. In July of 1964, the town was shocked to hear

that Pete had been injured in an accident by Teibel's Restaurant. His squad car (still Pete's personal car) was waiting to make a left turn in the southbound lane of Route 41 when it was hit head-on by a semi that jackknifed on the rainy, slippery pavement while attempting to make a stop at the light at 41 and 30. He died, from injuries, on August 4, 1964. Redar Park is named in his memory.

Robert Teegarden, Town Board President, became acting chief until September 17, 1964, at which time the Police Commissioners appointed Philip Spivak to Chief.

As of August 1964, the sleepy town of Schererville had just two policeman. A month later William Ellis was added and on February 1 of the following year Elmer Doctor joined the force.

Schererville, at one time, had a car-per-man policy. Each policeman had his own car. That policy was terminated somewhere in the Ben Blake time which would put it about 1988. A return to this plan is currently under study. It would put more police cars in a visible position. According to Bob Florkiewicz, in the days before 1988, Schererville



Schererville resident, Lawrence Miller, and his State Police Car on June 1, 1933





Schererville Police Department in 1991

*Left to Right: Sgt. Michael Ison, Ofc. Brian Neyhart, Ofc. David Dowling, Ofc. Randy Reno, Sgt. Jesse W. Cook, Lt. Donald Parker
 Row 1 - Chief of Police, Dennis J. Zagrocki, Lt. Michael Decrescenzo, Sgt. Thomas Shanley, Sgt. Steve Neese, Sgt. Michael Kessie
 Row 2 - Cpl. Joseph Gasiorek, Ofc. Timothy Patriarca, Ofc. Andrew Stack, Ofc. Robert Wiley, Ofc. Joseph Uzubell, Ofc. John Spivak,
 Ofc. Richard Massey, Ofc. William Marsh, Ofc. Timothy Marr, Cpl. Tim Mitchell
 Row 3 - Radio Operator, Charles Elliott, Ofc. Kevin Hughes, Ofc. James Weddell, Ofc. Brian Vandenburg, Ofc. Daniel Smith, Ofc.
 William Lawrence, Ofc. David Pedric, Ofc. Larry Mysliwiec, Ofc. Peggi Powers, Secretary to the Chief, Amelia R. Batalis, Radio
 Operator, Mary Sanders, Records Clerk, Dorothy Nava, Row 4 - Radio Operator, Gaylynn Cox, Radio Operator, Tracy Zebracki,
 Radio Operator, Traci Bonnes, Animal Control Warden, Diane Peifer*



Rts. 30 & 41 accident in the 40's. Lawrence Miller (State Police car) and Pete Redar (Schererville Police Car) both answered this accident call. Note Sauzers Waffle Shop at the upper right.



Tim Patriarca and Mike Decrescenzo in 1991.

purchased used State Police cars. The cars were about one-year old and were purchased very cheaply.

October 3, 1973, was the date when the Police Department moved to the location along the railroad tracks. That building, which had been built many, many years ago, once was the site of town board meetings, provided a home for a fire truck and had the town well inside it. Organizations, such as the Schererville Town League, held meetings there.

In July of 1975, Schererville became the first Lake County Police Department to have a Police Canine Unit. The first dog handlers were John Wade and John Siedelmann. This was a community project. The Schererville Businessmen and Civic Fund



Original fire station - Barrels are tar barrels from Texaco that were used in the tar and stone procedure on the streets of Schererville.

provided the capital and Bob Florkiewicz provided the time and ability to construct dog pens, runs and training area. The dogs were used for purposes from seeking a murderer to finding lost children.

The Officer Friendly Program was started in 1975 with Steve Neese as the first Officer Friendly. The D.A.R.E. program was begun in 1989. At this time, Tim Mitchell took over and the two programs became one. Currently, Brian Vandenburg is Officer Friendly and also runs the D.A.R.E. program.

The first Schererville Radio Room for the department started in the fall of 1975. Prior to that time, as mentioned previously, Schererville was "hooked to" another town for radio use.

Another Schererville first was the first policewoman. She was Peggy Calderano and was hired on August 1, 1990. Another policewoman, Diane Peifer, distinguished herself by graduating as Valedictorian from the Indiana Police Academy in Plainfield, Indiana in December, 1991.

The Police Chiefs since the Centennial have been: Ron Schweder (Nov. 14, 1975 - Jan. 1, 1985), Elmer Doctor (Jan. 1, 1985 - Aug. 12, 1988) and Dennis

Zagrocki (July 1, 1989 - Jan. 13, 1992). For a very short time Schererville had a Police Superintendent, Ben Blake. Current Police Chief is Jesse Cook who joined the force in 1973. The Police Department is governed by a Police Commission that currently is



Fire Station in 1930. Building still stands along tracks at Joliet and Wilson. It is the current Police Station.

comprised of Dean Sangalis, Bob Florkiewicz, Fred Hieber, Bob Pesavento and Maurice Smith.

Fire Fighting in Schererville

The Schererville Volunteer Fire Department was organized on June 25, 1914. Fred Henderlong was appointed Chief by the Town Board and presided at the first organization meeting. The rules and by-laws were accepted, practices established, meeting dates set and officers elected. The first roster consisted of twenty-five volunteers. They held regular meetings at the town hall for some time. However, during these early years, meetings were often held in any available place such as the Public School, Miller and Sutter's Store, Henderlong's Restaurant and Bohney's Barber Shop.

The first fire station was built a short time later just west of the tracks on the north side of Joliet Street. Some years later this building was moved east of the tracks across from the public school. A shortage of men during the World War I years made it necessary for the Volunteer Fire Department to disband for three years from 1917 until 1920.

In 1920 the Fire Department was reorganized with eighteen men volunteering. The volunteers were summoned to a fire call by a bell which was kept at the fire station. The bell is still kept at the station although it was replaced with a siren in 1926. The 1920 equipment of the Fire Department consisted of a two-wheel cart which held sodium acid charges and was pushed by hand and a one-ladder wagon.

The first fire truck was a Commerce Truck





Clockwise from Searchlight:
 William Schiesser, John Thiel Sr., Clarence Schafer, Joe Zimmer, Joe Risch, Herbert Govert, Joe Schiesser, Mathias Kuhn,
 Ben Schulte, William Redar, Frank Place, Louie Meyer, Al Govert, John Thiel Jr., Clarence Klassen, Pete Redar,
 Michael Kuhn, Al Peifer, Earl Toweson, Joe Homan, Driver Andy Doctor

purchased from Grimmer's Garage in Highland in 1922. The first salary, \$25.00, was paid to the Chief in 1926. Shortly thereafter the regular members became members of the Indiana Firemen's Association.

On a bitterly cold Christmas morning in 1928 the Fire Department was summoned to one of the largest fires ever to occur in Schererville. The freezing water and hoses made the job difficult and The Turner Building was burned to the ground. It was rebuilt and still stands across from Earl's Tap.

Clarence Schafer was elected to serve as Fire Chief in 1930 and remained in this post until his retirement from the department thirty-two years later. Norbert Fortner was elected to take over from Clarence.

The original Commerce fire truck was replaced in 1939 by a Seagrave truck.

The roster was expanded in 1940 to twenty-four men. In the same year an Honor Roll was created with two plaques honoring those men who had completed 20 years of service and those who reach the age of fifty-five while active members or those who pass away while members. Some of the early names on the plaques include Andrew Doctor, John Reiplinger, Anthony Kaiser, Joe Risch, Louis Meyer, John Thiel, William Bohny, Frank Place, Thomas Smith, Joseph Homan, Andrew Doctor, Matt Kuhn,



Left to right: William Bohny, John Heppenthal, Alfred M. Peifer, Alfred H. Govert, Leo Grimmer, William Schiesser, Clarence J. Schafer, Joe Zimmer, and Mathias Kuhn, at retirement Party for Leo and Al

Laverne Dewes, Alfred Govert, Pete Redar, Clarence Schafer, William Schiesser, Joe Zimmer, John



Huppenthal, Leo Grimmer and Alfred Peifer. Al Peifer was elected to the post of Assistant Chief in 1941 and served in that capacity until his retirement from the department in 1965. By 1947 the department had grown to thirty members.

The first resuscitator was added to the equipment in 1950. Firemen were first compensated for answering fire calls in 1953. They were paid \$1.00 for each regular monthly meeting attended, \$1.00 for each call answered and \$1.00 for each hour on duty. At the time of the Centennial, the same compensation rate was still in effect.

Beginning in 1955 the Department sponsored a Fire Prevention Essay contest at Homan and St. Michael's Schools for grades five through eight with a trophy being awarded to the winning essay in each grade.

The new Town Hall and Fire Station was completed in 1957 and on May 15 the Fire Department settled into its present quarters at 1640 Wilson Street.

Various improvements and equipment modernizations have been done through the years. A few notable items have been the purchase of an American LaFrance Fire Truck in January of 1968 (the old 1939 Seagrave Pumper was retired), a second American LaFrance truck in 1974 and an improved radio alerting system.

In 1973 the Schererville Town Board authorized the Fire Department to expand its membership to 40 men. For sometime a garage on the east side of the busy tracks was used to house a truck in case of a fire. The older residents of Schererville will remember that there were frequent slow moving or switching trains in the center of town that would halt traffic for long periods of time. This "other" fire truck was kept ready in case such an emergency would arise. In 1975, a second station was built at 1650 Cline Avenue to better protect the town.

As Schererville began its rapid growth, the New Elliott Volunteer Fire Department was asked, in 1977, to merge with the Schererville Fire Department. With this merge, Schererville now had three fire stations. New Elliott joined with a an inventory of four pieces of equipment including two pumpers, one grass truck and one emergency truck. Now Schererville was servicing the Town and the unincorporated area of New Elliott.

In 1978, the Schererville Town Board voted to hire its first fire inspector, Edward "Bo" Kaiser.

In May of 1979, the Town Board approached the fire department with a concern that the town needed an ambulance service. The Fire Department voted to take on this added responsibility.

Five years later, Plum Creek was a populated part of Schererville and the need for another station was



Schererville Fire Department - October, 1991

Back Row - Left to right: George Schulp, Jerry Schmitt, Dan Gray, Tom Schweitzer, Jim Schaap, Bill Howe, George Michels, Harvey Lanning, Jim Lesniewski, Gerry Denhartog, Gary Hays, Rich Kramer, John Vought, Jeff Bridegroom, Ed Jasaitis, Jim Vargo

Front Row - Left to right: Steve Neumeier, Mark Semethy, Carmen Mosca, Jerry Bauer, Frank Peters, Jim Watters, Dan Peppin, Ed Kaeser, Terry Sherwood, Bud Darnell, Jerry Balaz, Fred Belligio, Roger Walters, Mike Talbert, George Turoci

Firemen not pictured: Bill Howe, Sr., Ron Meyers, Dick Gerlach, Bud Govert, Ed Koch, Jim Rotas, D. Keith, Al Hansen, K. Henry, P. Bednarski, D. Froman, J. Hurley, G. Graham, M. Radencic, L. Kickert, G. Kicmal, D. Goins, C. Flanigan, H. Schultz



apparent. Station #4 was, therefore, built at 280 Plum Cr  k Drive. Shortly thereafter, a second ambulance was added. In 1988, the town hired its first full-time Emergency Medical Technician, George Micheals.

Continued rapid growth to the south of Town made it necessary to build another fire station. Station #5 was built at 1949 Springvale Drive and is designated to handle the south portion of Schererville.

Currently the Schererville Fire Department has fifty-six men serving four fire stations. There are eleven pieces of equipment and two ambulances. The newest piece of equipment is a 1992 Chevy Blazer. The department covers 21 square miles and serves approximately 30,000 residents.

In the 125 year history of Schererville, only five men have held the title of Fire Chief. The first was Fred Henderlong. Next was Clarence Schafer, Norbert Fortener and Joseph Govert. The small number of chiefs that we have had are an indication of each one's qualifications and dedication. The current Fire Chief is Bo Kaiser.

Firemen's Auxiliary

The Schererville Auxiliary of the Indiana Firemen's Association was organized on December 1, 1937.

There were ten charter members at this time. After the first Auxiliary election the following officers were installed: President, Augusta Schafer; Vice-President, Leona Kuhn; and Secretary-Treasurer, Adeline Kuhn.

The ten original charter members were: Augusta Schafer, Leona Kuhn, Adeline Kuhn, Catherine Bohny, Anna Place, Lillian Mager, Emma Redar, Catherine Risch, Nancy Meyer and Mary Doctor.

The Auxiliary met monthly and business was mixed with pleasure when they were joined by the firemen at the conclusion of the business meeting to play cards.

The early years of the Auxiliary were devoted mainly to charitable endeavors. Each year at Christmas time, the needy families of Schererville were helped. In 1938, seven families received baskets of food. By 1940 there were thirteen families receiving baskets.

Mrs. Anna Place took office as the Auxiliary president in 1940 and held this office until the Auxiliary disbanded in 1947.

In 1941, the Firemen's Auxiliary discontinued its affiliation with the State Association. They continued, however, on their own and devoted their efforts during the war years to the boys in service.

At Christmas in 1941, boxes were prepared and sent to all the boys from Schererville who were in the service. Yearly donations were made to the Red Cross and cards and gifts were sent to all men confined in hospitals. With profits derived from card and bunco parties, comfort kits were assembled by the members and sent to the servicemen.

After a lapse of eight years, during which time the Auxiliary was disbanded, the Schererville Firemen's Auxiliary was reorganized on January 17, 1955.

They, once again, became members of the Indiana Firemen's Association Auxiliary. Meetings were held every second Monday from September through June with approximately thirty members attending.

Membership has declined since the early days. At this time the membership stands at just eight. However, these eight do quite a bit to help the finances of the department. Their only fund-raising project is the Annual Hearts On Fire Dance which is held in February. This past year the auxiliary bought the firemen their first defibrillator unit at a cost of \$7,000.

Presidents from the time of reorganization have been: Mrs. Edward Koch - 1955; Mrs. Dale Heacock - 1956; Mrs. Frank Gard - 1957; Mrs. John Huppenthal - 1958, 1962, 1963; Mrs. Arnold Peifer - 1959; Mrs. Norbert Fortener - 1960, 1965; Mrs. Charles Willing - 1961; Mrs. Alfred Peifer - 1964, 1965; Mrs. Chuck Rubarts - 1974-78; Mrs. Tom Obarski - 1978-80; Mrs. James Vargo - 1980-88; and currently the president is



Back in 1918 mail arrived by train. Frank Place shown outside station looking north.

Mrs. Drew Froman who began her term in 1988.

Schererville Mail Service

According to records furnished by the General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service and by the Post Office Department, the first Post Office in Schererville was established on December 20, 1866. The first Postmaster was Mathias Meyers who served from December 20 1866 to October 28, 1867.

Postmasters who followed are as follows:

Nicholas Scherer - October 29, 1867
Adolph San Agraf - May 20, 1870
Michael Grimmer - May 17, 1881
Jacob Austgen - November 5, 1885
Lena Grimmer - August 21, 1889



John Trinen - April 15, 1897
 John Rietmann - November 29, 1899
 Adam Schubert - January 29, 1902
 John Weis - March 14, 1903
 Mary Weis - February 12, 1908
 George Gard - October 8, 1913 (Gard's Store)
 Joseph Reiplinger - June 16, 1928
 Mertie Lindzy - November 26, 1935 (Turner Building)
 Josephine Loehmer - June 1, 1942
 Mary Kaiser - July 1, 1942 (Corts Building)
 LaVerne J. Craven - May 13, 1972
 Thomas J. Mikos - Officer-in-Charge
 October 9, 1986
 Mary A. Gordon - Officer-in-Charge
 October 23, 1986
 Walter A. Eaton - March 28, 1987
 Through the years Schererville has been privileged to have excellent mail service being served by both the Pennsylvania Railroad and truck service from Hammond. However, about Centennial time, the train service was canceled and the bulk of the mail and parcel post started coming from Gary. The current Post Office location was occupied in the fall of 1966. There are current plans to vacate the downtown location and relocate on the congested Highway 30.

the minutes of February 1919 when the number of books in the library is indicated as 120. Many homes



This was one of the early sites of the Schererville Library. It was located in the Kolling house which stands on the N.W. corner of Joliet and Mary Street.



Current Cort's Building at 11 E. Joliet

Schererville Public Library

Library services were extended to St. John Township when branches were established at Dyer and Schererville in 1919.

Louis Bailey was Librarian of Gary, but, at the time, was in military service. Miss Orpha Maud Peters was Assistant Librarian in charge of Extension and Acting Librarian at the time.

First mention of the size of the library is found in

today have over 120 books. Early libraries, therefore, did not have a special building dedicated to just being a library.

Apparently no circulation was kept for a time which would seem to indicate that it may have been located in the schools of the community. The Annual Report for 1918 states, "The outlying districts are served by circulating collections in the following country schools: Black Oak, Ridge Road, New



Old Schererville Library at one of its very early sites located at 11 W. Joliet. Building was purchased from Munster - see text.



Chicago, New Chicago Parochial, Dyer Parochial, St. John Public, Schererville Parochial..."

"In September, without the necessity of circulating a petition, the St. John Township Advisory Board levied a tax for library purposes. Service to the eight schools of the township was begun immediately, supplying all of them with reference and supplementary books and placing circulating collections in five of the schools. Branches will soon be established in Dyer, St. John and Schererville. Funds from this township will not be available until July."

The tax rate levied in 1920 for 1921 was .03 per \$100 and was to yield an expected \$2,400. Apparently the rate was maintained for several years.

The annual report for 1919 states that the branch opened in October with Miss Mary Reiplinger in charge. A station had been maintained in the Y.M.C.A. for the six previous months. This probably accounts for no mention of location until rent was paid to a J.H. Green - \$10 per month in January 1920. The next mention of rent paid is to a Mrs. (Samuel-Elizabeth) Corts in January 1922 where the library apparently remained until January 1946.

The November 26, 1945, minutes state: "Mr. Kolling, St. John Township Trustee, stated that Mrs. Corts, owner of the building housing the Schererville Library has requested him to advise the Board of Trustees to find other quarters for the library by



Schererville Public Library in 1991.

January 1st, when the Schererville Post Office would take over the present building. Mr. Kolling offered to rent the front part of his house to the library for the same rental paid Mr. Corts, \$15 a month."

First circulation of books from Schererville branch in October 1919 show 108 - 44 adult, 64 juvenile and a daily average of 15.

There may be other mention of the library in the minutes in ensuing years, but it remained in the

Kolling home until 1953.

Minutes of June 15, 1953 state: "The town of Schererville in St. John Township is now to have its own library building. Permission has been obtained from the Schererville Town Board to move the frame building from Munster to Schererville where it will serve as a library-owned branch."

Minutes of July 27, 1953 add: "The Librarian (Harold Tucker) presented to the board for their approval and signature, a check payable to Victor A. Marshall for the purchase of a lot in the center of town of Schererville - 11 Joliet Street, where he proposed to place the frame building formerly used as the Munster Library. Between closing of the old Schererville branch and the moving and rehabilitation of the frame building, approximately one month, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of the lot, the check for \$800 and the new plans for Schererville on a motion by Mrs. Ruth Berg, seconded by Mr. Echel." This building still stands. It is located next to the H & R Block Office at the base of the hill going to St. Michael's.

Mrs. M.J. Wickhorst was the first librarian in the new library. She was succeeded by Mrs. Bessie Pozezanac in June of 1954.

In 1957, while still under Gary guidance and service, a 12 x 20 foot addition was built onto the small Schererville library building. By 1957, the book stock had grown to approximately 4,000.

The Indiana Library Act of 1947 permitted the establishment of an independent Lake County Library Board of Trustees who were to determine the policy and budgets of all the non-municipal areas under their jurisdiction in Lake County. The Schererville Public Library has been provided for by this board since its inception.

Until 1959, the Lake County Library was serviced by the Gary Library Board and the Gary Public Library Director was also the Lake County Library Director. In January of 1959, the Lake County Public Library Board decided to sever connection with Gary and operate independently in order to provide more and better service to its patrons.

On January 1, 1959, Mr. George Droste became the first Director of the Lake County Public Libraries. He was instrumental in setting up technical processing by the use of IBM machines, replacing the old card catalog system with the new book catalog, installing Teletype machines in all the community libraries for better service and communication and other new technical services.

Mr. Droste resigned in July of 1961 and Mr. William Shore became the director. Ill health forced him to resign in August of 1964.

In 1963 a \$1,500,000 bond issue was floated by the Lake County Library Board with which they were to build a number of new libraries including one in Schererville. In the fall of 1965 the building was started at 119 E. Joliet Street. It was occupied the following year and still serves as Schererville's library.

SCHERERVILLE PARKS

Redar Park, the central park of Schererville in its early days, was started in 1933. Prior to this time, kids and adults played ball and other games wherever they could. In early 1910, the Schererville baseball teams played ball in the marshland where the Scherwood Club entrance currently is.

Mary Schiessle, in approximately 1930, allowed the ball teams to use a section of her property east of Austin (near 1715 Austin). Clarence Schafer, at that time a town board member and a relative of Mary, convinced her to sell the town some of her property for \$15.00 per acre. Thus, Schererville had it's first park area. It was called Park Manor. That name continued until 1966 when the name was changed to honor Pete Redar (see additional information on Mr. Redar in this book).

The sand-play area of the park started as a children's wading pool. This was built by the WPA in 1938. However, because of town concern on safety, the pool was filled in and made into a sand-play area. The Thomas W. Austgen Pavilion was added later. At the time of Schererville's 125th, John Novacich was the Director of Parks.

Many town residents have fond memories of Babe Ruth games and Girl's Softball. Local residents would walk over with their lawn chairs or dogs and watch a summer ball game in the friendly confines of Redar Park.



*Peter G. Redar Park, Austin Ave. & Gregory St.,
9.2 acres.*



*Thomas W. Austgen Memorial Pavilion located in the
corner of Redar Park.*



Adeline M. Kulik Park (Ridgemoor Park), 7600 St. John Rd., 2.5 acres



Rolling Hills Park, Mount St. & 77th Pl., 2.5 acres



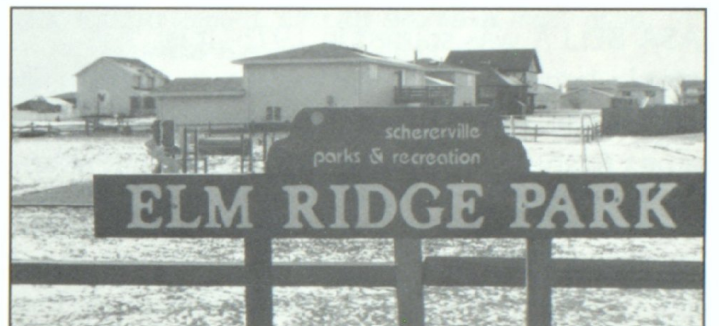
C.P. Smith Memorial Park, Robin Hood & Maid Marion, 1 acre



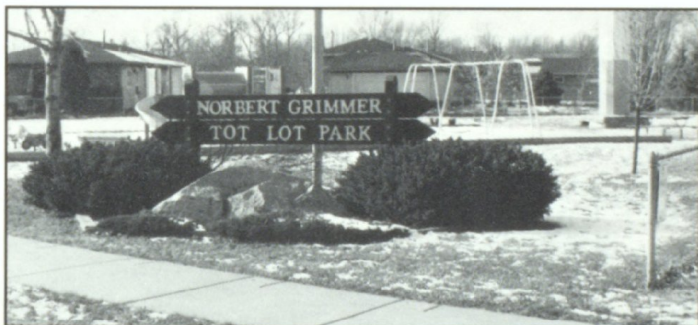
Stephen Park, 7600 Lincolnwood Avenue, 20 acres



Michael Biedron Memorial Park, South Park Avenue, 6 acres



Elm Ridge Park, St. John Rd. & Farmdale Dr., 1.3 acres



Norbert Grimmer Tot Lot Park, Joliet St. & Julie Dr., 1 acre



Dr. R.A. Grove Memorial Park, Southview & Theresa Dr., 1 acre



Kennedy Avenue Park, 1400 Kennedy Avenue, 6.5 acres



Plum Creek Park, Plum Creek Drive, 8 acres

Koufos and Koufos Development has been in business for 33 years. Originally known as Watson & Koufos Realtors, Builders, and Developers, they started the SHERWOOD LAKE apartment Complex in 1969. The 600 unit Sherwood Lake Apartment Complex started when Schererville's population was approximately 2500. Today's population is 20,000 plus. This 48-1/2 acre complex consists of 600 apartment units, 2 lakes, 3 swimming pools, 1 putting green, tennis courts, and shuffle boards.

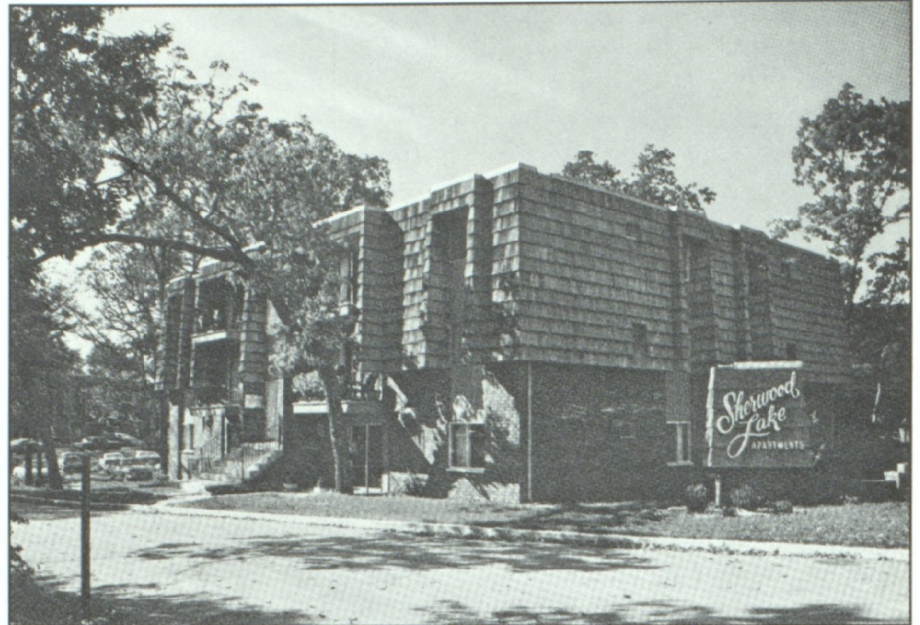
In 1978, bones and human artifacts were discovered during excavation of one of Sherwood's lakes. Jim Koufos called Professor William Turnbull, a fossil curator emeritus at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, who carbon dated the artifacts between 9,000 and 10,000 years old. These artifacts are now in an exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago, which was shown at a Schererville grade school during 1992 as a special exhibit.

CASA BELLA was started in 1975. It is a single-family development of approximately 300 lots and upscale homes nestled adjacent to Watson and Grimmer schools. They were built by some of Schererville's finest builders.

DEERPATH ESTATES was started in 1979. It is a 70-acre development which includes Deerpath Estates Condominiums, Deerpath Townhomes, Phase II, Deerpath Townhomes, Phase III. Future plans include Townhomes, Phase IV, and the Schererville Health Center to be completed in 1994. This land originates from the Seberger Farms that were purchased in the year 1845.

-Jim P. Koufos -

- * Past President, Calumet Board of Realtors
- * Past President, Calumet Multiple Listing Service
- * Past President, Northern Indiana Apartment Council
- * Vice President, Northwest Indiana Home Builders Association
- * Past President, Schererville Rotary Club



Left to Right: Niall McShane, Maria (Koufos) McShane, Dr. Michael Koufos, Amy Koufos, Barbara (Longfellow) Koufos, Jim Koufos, Pete Koufos, Steve Koufos.

Ancestry: Greek, English, Irish, Dutch, German

ROLLING HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Rolling Hills Homeowners Association was organized on June 25, 1965. The original Board of Directors were Glen Harlow, Jerry Kennedy, Gerald Uran, James Huff, James Poisel and Joseph Harlow. The purposes of the association were community based. Past presidents have included Richard Ruff, Wayne Rife and Jim Rokosz.

In 1977 the subdivision was annexed to the Town of Schererville and the association was disbanded.

In May of 1990 residents met at the park to discuss reorganizing the association under the coordination of Mary Jaskula. That August Vince Flores was elected president. Many activities for the residents have since been held. The association currently serves 150 homes.

After years of struggling with "who we were and where we belonged", things started to fall into place. This area had a Merrillville address, Schererville and Dyer phone numbers and the children attended St. John Township Schools.

The association along with Councilman Mary Jascula petitioned for the Zip Code to be changed to Schererville. Finally, in August of 1992, this was accomplished.

Current officers are: President, Phyllis Vargo; Vice President, Bonnie Krooswyk; Treasurer, Jan Brewer; Secretary, Marilyn Atkinson; and Historian, Cathy Sartain.



Marilyn Atkinson (front left), **Janice Brewer** (back left), **Phyllis Vargo** (center), **Cathy Sartain** (back right), **Bonnie Krooswyk** (front right)

Schererville Florist & Gift Shop

Marge (Hlavach) Pavisich and Gitta (Sellentin) Mueller have been the proprietors since October 15, 1982. Their shop is in the old, temporary Calumet National Bank Building. Gitta lives in Dyer and Marge lives in Glenwood, Illinois, yet they also consider historic Schererville their home. Their phone number for flowers and gifts is 322-4960.



JOHN SEMAN



John Seman was one of the first deputies under the direction of Marshal Pete Redar. John had to purchase his own revolver. For a small token pay, he served as a deputy for over 16 years. His regular job was that of a pipefitter at Standard Oil Company.

John was elected to the Town Board in 1960 and was serving in a second term at the time of his death on February 21, 1964.

This remembrance is compliments of Wayne and Catherine (Seman) Sherrick.

ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER



HALL RENTAL

WEDDINGS • SHOWERS • BANQUETS
50 PEOPLE TO 200 PEOPLE
BEAUTIFUL FACILITIES

Gerry J. Scheub, St. John Township Trustee
William Bednar, Chariman
Mary Ann Buchler, Secretary
Jim Dowling, Chariman-Board of Finance

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SCHERERVILLE, IN 46375
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Core Drilling • Slab Sawing

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GERRY J. SCHEUB
KELLY M. EYER

ST. JOHN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES THROUGH THE YEARS



Peter Portz	6 Years	1863-1868
Bernard Schulte	14 Years	1869-1882
Henry Schulte	4 Years	1883-1886
Bernard Scheidt	4 Years	1887-1890
Michael Grimmer	8 Years	1891-1898
Henry Keilman	6 Years	1899-1904
J.A. Weiss (Died in Office)	3 Years	1905-1907
Henry Betterman (unexpired term of Mr. Weiss)	1 Year	1907-1908
Frank Scheidt	6 Years	1909-1914
Joe Gerlach	8 Years	1915-1922
Michael Seberger	8 Years	1923-1930
Paul T. Gettler	8 Years	1931-1938
Michael Kolling	8 Years	1939-1946
Roy Hilbrich	4 Years	1947-1950
Michael Kolling	4 Years	1951-1954
Donald Moriarity	8 Years	1955-1962
Louis Cinko	8 Years	1963-1970
Robert Frey	4 Years	1971-1974
Gerry J. Scheub	18 Years	1975-Current

Schererville Organizations, Etc.

Schererville has or has had many different organizations with the newest probably being the Schererville Historical Society which has undertaken the updating of the history of Schererville. Many organizations have their updates incorporated with the entire organization history. Some, because of their newness or whatever, have not. All known organizations were sent contact sheets and follow-ups were made. I have worked with what was received.

Schererville Historical Society

A small group of Schererville residents got together during the summer of 1990 and decided to form a Schererville Historical Society. A committee was formed to make this happen. Charter officers of this new organization were: President, Art Schweitzer; Vice President, Rich Jonas; Treasurer, Dave Andrews; Recording Secretary, Heidi Clark Zima; and Corresponding Secretary, Paulette Stark. Board members voted in were Dick Krame, Eleanor Krame, Vern Schulte, Fred Jones, Ron Fetsch, Pat Klamo and Cindy Leighty. Glen Eberly, who helped get the Society going is an Honorary Member. The group was officially incorporated under the laws of Indiana on October 22, 1990.

Art Schweitzer, with a long ancestry in Schererville, has been a tireless worker in accumulating hundreds of photos of everything that was and is Schererville. Pictures of historical Schererville are displayed virtually anywhere or anytime someone wants them.

This historical update, for example, is one of the undertakings of the Historical Society. Rich Jonas has edited and put together the information to update the history. All of the people who did the excellent job for the Centennial are to be thanked. Special thanks go to Bob Teegarden, former Town



Working on the Schererville Historical Book - Art Schweitzer, Betty and Rich Jonas.

Board President who was a moving force behind the original booklet and behind the town of Schererville as well. Valuable contributions aiding this endeavor have been received from various Society members including Fred Jones, Dave Andrews, Dick Krame, Eleanor Krame, Heidi Clark Zima, Ron Fetsch, Rich and Betty Jonas and, of course, Art Schweitzer.

The long-term goal of the Society is to have a Schererville Historical Museum in which the history of Schererville can be preserved and displayed. The dream is to acquire the old Scherer house that currently stands at 33 Wilhelm Street at the top of the hill from the old town hall.

Schererville Garden Club

Another new organization is the Schererville Garden Club. It was founded by Mrs. Karen Deakin and the first organized meeting was held on May 1, 1990. It became a federated garden club with the garden clubs of Indiana on September 11, 1990. Its



Schererville Historical Society Founders - L. to R. Cindy Leighty, V. Bohny, Dave Andrews, Heidi Clark-Zima, Dick Krame, Paulette Stark, Rich Jonas, Eleanor Krame and Art Schweitzer.



charter officers were: Karen Deakin, President; Diane Perrine, 1st Vice President; Deborah Stubbs, 2nd Vice President; Iris Lanning, Secretary; and it had Elsa Finwall and Jane Lazowski sharing the Treasurer's job. As of July of 1991 there were 30 regular members and 1 honorary member.

Schererville Lions

The original Schererville Lions Club was chartered on September 18, 1946, by the International Associations of Lions Clubs. The Lions Club, itself, began when Melvin Jones, a Chicago insurance man, presented an idea to a group of other area business men known as "The Business Circle" of using their



*Schererville Lions Club presenting check to Hoosier Boy's Town.
L. to R. Mrs. John Schweitzer, Mrs. Clarence Schafer,
Rev. M. Campagna, Mrs. C.P. Smith, Mrs. F.M. Place, Mrs.
Earl Towson, Mrs. L.N. Miller, Mrs. A.M. Schrieber,
Mrs. Andrew Doctor and Mrs. Joseph Homan.*

abilities to improve their local communities, provide help to those in need and many other charitable endeavors.

Here in Schererville there are actually two Lions Clubs: the Schererville Lions, noted above, and the Schererville Central Lions, chartered on February 19, 1982. Both clubs are extremely active within the community and have provided many community leaders. Pavilions and tennis courts at Reder and Stephen Parks were built through the efforts of the Lions Clubs. Toddler parks such as the Clarence P. Smith Park have had equipment that was purchased by the Lions Clubs. Police bullet-proof vests, school-crossing guard equipment, park signs, the training of teachers and purchases of books for the Quest program in the local school systems have all been attained through the efforts of these two clubs. Many area needy children have had eye glasses purchased for them by the Lions. The Schererville Lions, for many years, have recognized the

outstanding male and female elementary public and parochial school graduates. The Schererville Central Lions have sponsored the Schererville Officer Friendly program and have also paid the entire cost of the bicycle registration program. These are some, but not all of their contributions to the community.

These achievements have been made possible by fundraisers. The main ones are the annual Octoberfest and Fish Fry of the Schererville Lions and the Crabboil and Steak Fry of the Schererville Central Lions.

Two distinguished citizens were recently honored with the Melvin Jones award which is the highest award given by the Lions Clubs International Foundation. The recipients of this honor were Richard Krame of the Schererville Lions Club and Joseph Funderlic of the Central Lions Club.

Over the years it has sponsored projects including a Boy Scout Troop, a Girl Scout Troop, the Annual Halloween Parade and Party, an Annual Outing for the School Safety Patrol members and it presents plaques to the outstanding boy and girl graduates from the Schererville grade schools. It has contributed to hearing equipment for the children, park and school equipment, books for the Public Library, mosquito abatement treatments, contributions to the Town League, etc.

The roster of presidents of the Schererville Lions is as follows:

1946-48	Melvin Leach
1948-49	George Hartley
1949-50	Earl Toweson
1950-51	Milton Wickhorst
1951-52	Dr. Paul Green
1952-53	Robert Duncan
1953-54	Pete Redar
1954-55	Edward Witter
1955-56	Joseph Gogolak
1956-57	Clarence Smith
1957-58	John Parker
1958-59	Paul Banks
1959-60	Bob Teegarden
1960-61	James Gauthier
1961-62	Art Schweitzer
1962-63	Samuel Vance
1963-64	Joe Funderlic
1964-65	Michael Grimmer
1965-66	Richard Rayford
1966-67	Ted Stark
1967-68	Tom Laskey, Jr.
1968-69	Herman Parker
1969-70	John Dressen, Jr.
1970-71	Roy Austgen
1971-72	Dr. Robert A. Grove
1972-73	Jerry Janda
1973-74	Richard Krame
1974-75	Alan M. Miller
1975-76	Edward Bohney
1976-77	Ron Redar
1977-78	Helmut Korthauer
1978-79	Wayne Sherick

1979-80	John Shott
1980-81	Adrian George
1981-82	Fred Heiber
1982-83	James Sidebender
1983-84	Olin Bell, Jr.
1984-85	Robert Paratore
1985-86	Michael Gutyan
1986-87	Martin Harper
1987-88	Richard Krame
1988-89	Steven Toth
1989-90	Robert Kelderman/Steven Toth
1990-91	Ken Jones
1991-92	Thomas Talaga

The Central Lions have had the following as their presidents:

1982-83	Joseph Funderlic
1983-84	Paul Freeland
1984-85	C.D. Green
1985-86	Nick Anast
1986-87	Richard Wolf
1987-88	Richard Wolf
1989-90	James Lentini
1990-91	James Lentini
1991-	Frank Wolf

Women's Club

The Schererville Women's Club was organized on



Women's Club (no longer in existence)

Schererville Womans Club - 10th Anniversary

Charter Members - Hartley, Toweson, Hughes, Sayger, Duncan, Chambers, Carahoff, Miller, Hanft, Robinson, Brown, Betz, Wickhorst, Fane, Myers. (Reading top left to right then seated left to right) 1960

May 10, 1950, with Mrs. Robert Duncan serving as its first president. The club planned educational and entertaining programs to fulfill the education part of the purpose for which it was started.

During the years of its existence it improved the town tennis court, sponsored both a Girl Scout and Brownie Troop, and was involved in various other civic activities.

Believe it or not, one of its aims was to work with the Lion's Club to get Schererville one address for all



Seasons Greetings is always present along Route 30.

the people in Schererville proper since many had mail addresses of Dyer, Griffith, Crown Point and Merrillville. These ladies, some of them resting in peace, will rest better now since this may actually become a reality through the efforts of two other ladies, Mary Jaskula and Cathy Sartain.

The Women's Club disbanded in 1978.

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is one of the largest and most active organizations in Schererville. During 1962, it was known as Schererville Businessmen's Association and was formed by Paul Banks. Its old timers were Bill Watts, Angelus Stamos, Henry Fehlberg, Leo and Norb Grimmer, Ed Hero, Joe Gogolak and Pete Redar.

Tom Long was president in the year of 1962. At that time plans were discussed to change the organization to the Schererville Chamber of Commerce. This was not totally agreeable and many hot arguments ensued. The Chamber won out and Arthur Clouser was selected as the first president.

The Centennial committee, in going over some old minutes, noted that actual town planning or the idea to have a new master plan of Schererville started with the Chamber. The phone directories, now in the 28th year were a result of the Chamber.

Christmas decorations - yep, the star on the water tank were also due to the Chamber of Commerce. What star on what water tank? Well, back in 1966, there must have been one, but not in 1991. As the 1966 booklet said, "the tank is kind of like a thumb



tack marking the intersection of 41 and 30, as the location of the next booming town in Lake County." They were prophets, weren't they!

A number of the members have worked hard and distinguished themselves. At least four of them deserve a little extra credit. Bob Pesavento has been a member for fifteen years and has been on the board of directors since 1980. Bob Teibel has been



Some of the Chamber members at an opening of another new business in town. Seated on the left are Mike Troxell and Dick Krame and on the right are Dana Vozar and Tom Kouros.

on the board since 1983. Tony Baldin besides being a member of Lake Central School Board for 13 years, has been a three-time president. The fourth, Dick Krame, besides being very involved in town government, has also managed to devote himself to being a three-time president.

The Chamber held its 26th Annual Dinner in March of 1991. It now has over 135 members. The officers in the 125th year of Schererville are: President, Mike Troxell; Vice President, Bob Tiebel, Jr.; Vice President, Diane Westphal; Secretary, Joann Domsic-Stephen; and Treasurer, Terri Webb.

Past Presidents are the following.

1963	Tom Long
1964	Frank Sauzer, Sr.
1965	Dan Jordan
1966	Dan Jordan
1967	Art Krumm
1968	Fabian Zaskowski
1969	Fabian Zaskowski
1970	Tony Baldin
1971	Tony Baldin
1972	Dick Krame
1973	Dick Krame
1974	Dick Krame
1975	Gene Evans & Tom Lenz
1976	Tom Lenz & John Eriks
1977	John Eriks

1978	Evelyn Gula
1979	Tony Baldin
1980	Ray Hall & Alberta Maybaum
1981	Samuel Schultz
1982	John Kiernan
1983	Claybourne Ridgley
1984	Alberta Maybaum
1985	Paul Hoenstine
1986	Regina Koch
1987	Roy Oscarson
1988	Bob Pesavento
1989	Lois Diehl
1990	Rod Memering
1991	Mike Troxell

First Church of God

The First Church of God had its beginning in 1948 when five families from Hammond First Church of God began meeting in homes for prayer meetings. Under the direction of Rev. Paul Donaldson, the group began regular Sunday services in 1949.

The former Free Methodist Church at 330 - 68th Place was rented and later purchased. In 1955, a two-story structure was built around the existing building. It has been said that the old building was torn down and thrown out the windows of the new building.

As attendance continued to grow, more classrooms, an enlarged sanctuary and a fellowship hall were added.

In 1978, seven acres of land were purchased on



Some of the board members of the current Chamber of Commerce: Seated are Dana Vozar and Chamber President, Mike Troxell. Standing from left to right are Tony Baldin, Bob Pesavento and Ed Kozlowski.

Cline Avenue. A parsonage was built on the new land and plans began to develop for a new church building. Construction began in June of 1983 and the first service was held on October 7, 1984.

The Church of God is a non-denominational group of Christians with national headquarters in Anderson, Indiana.

The Church has an active program for everyone in the family. They have Sunday School classes, youth fellowship, children's classes, softball team, Women of the Church of God and men's groups.

The present pastor is Rev. Kendall Hendrickson. Previous pastors have been Revs. Paul Donaldson,



First Church of God at 1625 Cline Ave.

Gilbert Crook, Zendall Crook, Eva Garrett, Arthur Smith, Joe McCraw and C. J. Mowrer.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

In the year 1959, the total population of Schererville was in the neighborhood of 2000. Most of the land in the community was still being farmed by local families. And although the town was almost 100 years old there was no mainline Protestant church in the community. That is why on November 12, 1959, a handful of committed individuals came together to form the Community Church of Schererville.

The first service was held on November 29, 1959, with the Rev. Dewey Moore, pastor of the Griffith Baptist Church, as the guest speaker. The small independent church held its first services in the Schererville Town Hall. Pastoral leadership was provided by ministers from the surrounding communities. As the small church grew, the members came to realize that in order to continue growing, property would need to be purchased and a large financial investment would need to be made. In order to receive the financial aid that they would need to build a church in Schererville, the members of the Community Church began to consider affiliation with a major Protestant denomination.

In the spring of 1962, affiliation with the then

United Presbyterian Church was considered. The members of the official board of the church at that time were: Dr. George Hartley, chairman; James Westerfield, Sidney Strasburg, Alph Loggins, and George Schiffbauer. Guidance concerning the affiliation with the United Presbyterian Church was provided by the Rev. Russel Bisnet, minister of a new Presbyterian Church in Marquette Park and Rev. James Sala, regional presbyter of the Indiana Synod of Northern Indiana.

The Rev. Allen Montgomery, then pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Cayuga, Indiana was elected as the organizing pastor of the then mission church in 1962. In October of 1962, Rev. Montgomery, his wife Helen and children moved into the church Manse which was located at 145 W. Joliet Street.

The church continued as a mission church until October 6, 1963, at which time it was officially organized as the Immanuel United Presbyterian Church. At that time there were 92 charter members and their children in the church. At the worship service that day officials and dignitaries included: Dr. J.J. Velegne, chairman of the committee of National Missions of the Presbytery of Logansport; the Rev. Herman McCoy, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Highland; Rev. John Eastwood, pastor of the Covenant United Presbyterian Church of Hammond; Elder Alan Roebuck of the First Presbyterian Church of Dyer; and Elder Horace McAnally of the Covenant Church. The church moved from the Town Hall into the Scherwood Club. Rev. Montgomery was installed as the regular pastor on December 8, 1963.



Immanuel Presbyterian of Schererville on Rt. 30.

With the help of the Presbytery of Logansport and the Home Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church a building committee was organized and on September 27, 1964, a site on the north side of Route

30 was dedicated as the future site of Immanuel United Presbyterian Church. Ground breaking took place in July of 1965 and the first worship service in the new building was on May 8, 1966.

Over the next 14 years the church grew with the town of Schererville. From the original 94 members the membership of the church grew to over 200. In 1981, the last loan on the original building was paid off. However, the present facilities were crowded and no longer adequate. Room was needed for the growing Sunday School and space was needed for fellowship activities, which included a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner that usually served over 100 people. In 1980, a building committee was established to consider the problems facing the church. In 1983, a building committee was formed to draw up plans and start the ground work for a new educational wing. On September 17, 1984, ground was broken for a new Education Wing and on November 24, 1985, the new educational wing was dedicated. At that time it was decided to name the Fellowship Hall of the new building after the man who had given almost 23 years of his life to serving the church. Therefore, in honor of Rev. Allen Montgomery, the only pastor the church had known, the fellowship hall was named Montgomery Hall.

During the same year, the name of the church subtly changed. In 1983, the United Presbyterian Church, the northern branch of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, reunited with the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the southern branch of the church, to become the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Through this reunion the Schererville church became Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Schererville.

The year 1986 was a year of great change for the church. In May of that year, Rev. Montgomery, the founding pastor, announced his retirement effective as of August 31, 1986. After Rev. Montgomery's retirement, the Rev. Louis Sandos came to Schererville to serve as interim pastor for a year. During that time, a Pulpit Committee was formed and the search for a new pastor was begun.

On October 1, 1987, the Rev. Daniel Sutherin began his ministry as the second pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Rev. Sutherin is originally a native of western Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania and received his Masters of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Prior to coming to Schererville, he served as an Associate Pastor in Homewood, Illinois for six years. He and his wife Melinda and children Brittany and James made their home in Schererville and he serves as the president of the Tri-Town Ministerial Association.

Early in 1988, the church started a second worship service and the staff was expanded with the addition of a Director of Music. The church staff today includes Mrs. Chris Krzanowsky, church secretary; Mr. Jeff Harris, Director of Music; Mrs. Ruth

Christiana, church organist; and Mr. Dale Dorschel, custodian. The church is governed by the Board of Session with Mrs. Cindy Ault, Clerk of the Session. The Board of Deacons extends the church's ministry to the community and is governed by Deacons with Mr. Clem Jacobsma as Chairman. The church property is held in trust and cared for by the Board of Trustees with Mr. Bud Brassea as president.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church has come a long way in 27 years. It started with a handful of people in a small town seeking spiritual nurture and has grown to become a congregation of over 270 individuals. From a budget of \$7,000, it has grown to now have a yearly budget that exceeds \$150,000. It has changed from meeting in the Town Hall to gathering in its present location of buildings on 7 acres of land along Route 30. Sacrifice and dedication have paid big dividends to Immanuel Presbyterian Church.

First Baptist Church of Hammond Arrives

In 1972, the First Baptist Church of Hammond and their Pastor Jack Hyles with businessman Russell Anderson founded Hyles-Anderson College in Schererville, Indiana. The college was built on the same campus that also provided the new home for Hammond Baptist Grade School, Junior High School and Hammond Baptist High School.

Construction of the complex was begun in January of 1972 and just nine months later the doors opened to students in all the schools, including 301 college students. For its first two years Hyles-Anderson College shared the Joliet Street campus with all the other schools of the Hammond Baptist School System.

In the fall of 1974, Hyles-Anderson College purchased the 76 acre wooded area, including existing buildings, at 8400 Burr Street. This facility



Hammond Baptist School in downtown Schererville.



had housed the Capuchin Seminary of the Catholic Church since 1959. Many new buildings, additions and changes have been constructed since then, including the DeCoster Gymnasium, the DeCoster Dining Hall, the Beiler Auditorium, an indoor miniature golf course, enlarged and new dormitories, and the renovation of the Sallee Memorial Building, consisting of a library, reading room, offices and indoor bowling lanes. Over 2,700 students from all over the country currently attend Hyles-Anderson College.

Hammond Baptist High School, Junior High School, Grade School and some Hyles-Anderson College Men's dormitories are still located on the Joliet Street Campus.

Schererville Civic Fund

In a wide-spread town of less than 2,000 residents, Schererville found it difficult to respond to the requests of many local and national charitable organizations. Then, in 1956, a group of civic-minded citizens headed by Robert Teegarden chartered the Schererville Civic Fund, Inc. with the state of Indiana as a non-profit organization.

Pledges were obtained by yearly house-to-house campaigns and disbursements were made to the various charities, youth groups, recreation and community groups as needs were demonstrated. Later, payroll deductions from area business and manufacturing houses became the nucleus of the funds.

As the town prospered and population increased, the need for charitable efforts in the community for individuals, families and organizations also grew.

During the years since 1956, funds have been provided for Boy and Girl Scouts, Cubs Scouts and Brownies, 4-H Groups, CYO, Schererville Town League, Schererville Babe Ruth League, Town Parks Equipment and Development, Schererville Public Library, Police and Fire Departments, The National Fire Council, Police Canine Unit, Senior Snow Removal, Town Parades and Festivals, Chamber of Commerce Christmas Decorations and Town Tree, Lions Easter Egg Hunts, Hoosier Boys Town, Schererville Historical Society, etc.

Local families have received gift certificates for food and necessities at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as throughout the year when needs arise. Loan of Home/Health Care Equipment is made available, without charge, for patients residing within town limits. Items available include hospital beds, crutches, quad canes, wheelchairs and other medical equipment.

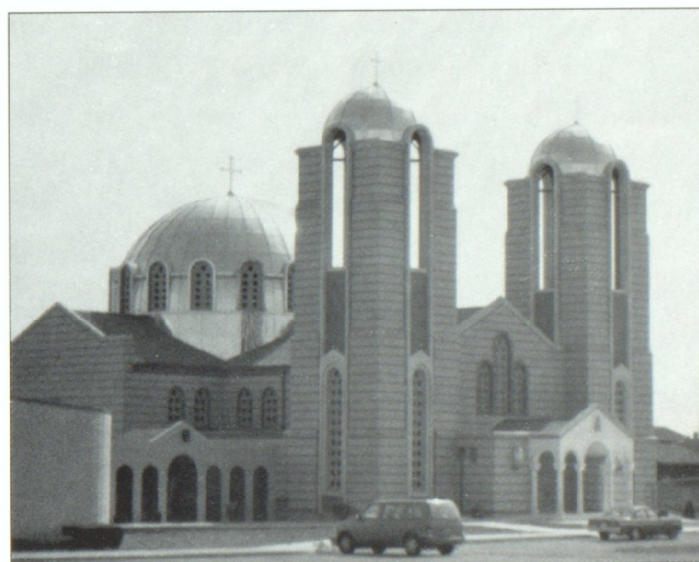
The Board of Directors is composed of 15 volunteers and meets the third Thursday of each month at the St. John Township Community Center at 7 p.m.



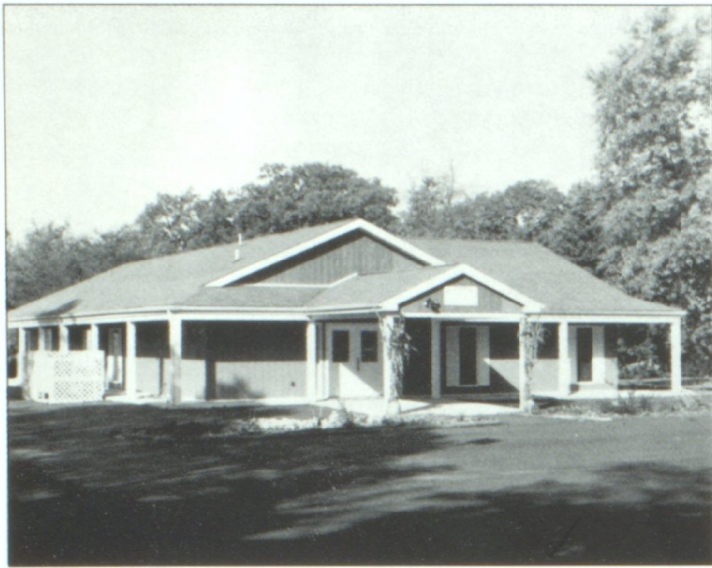
St. George Serbian Orthodox Church on 330 at Broad St.



1st Baptist Church of Schererville on Rt. 330.



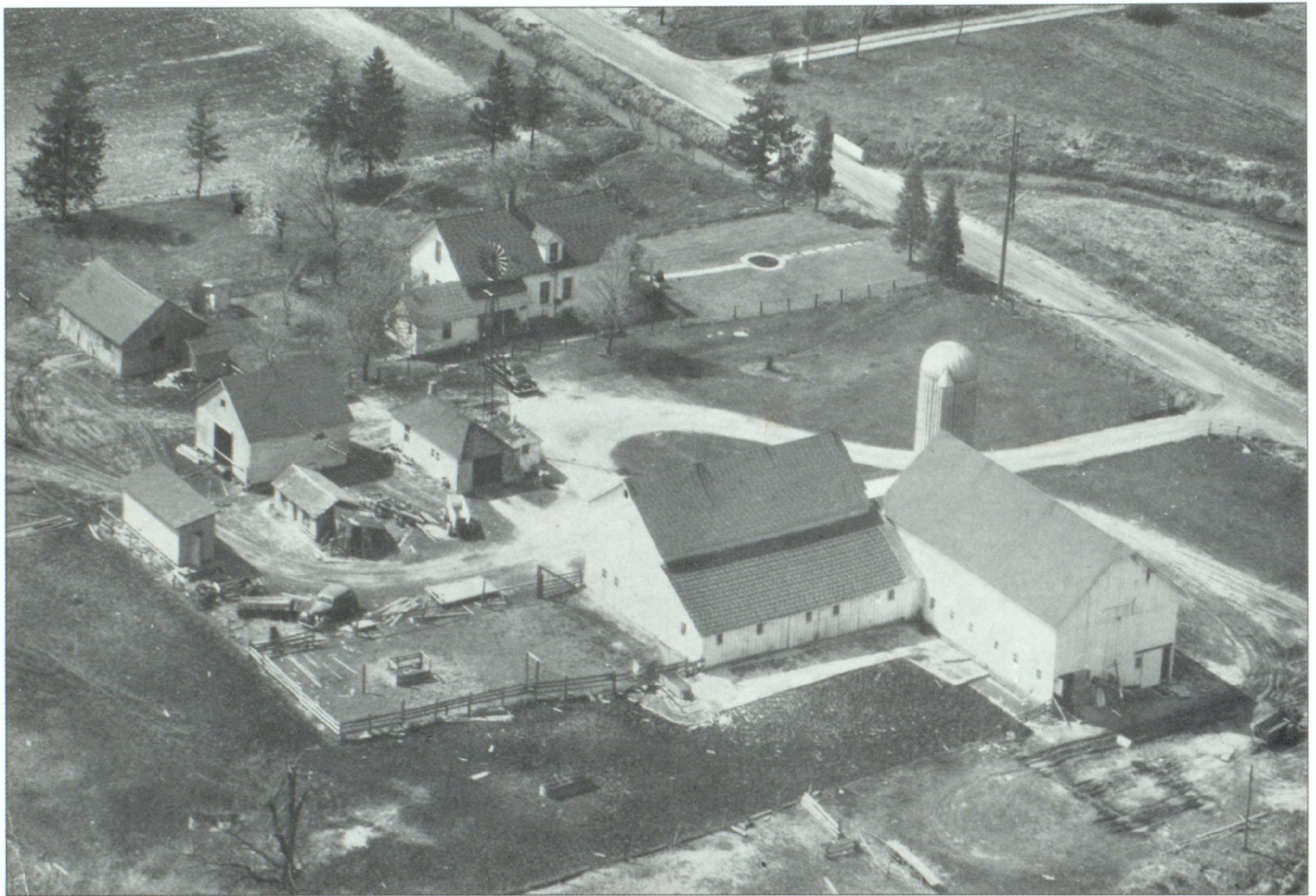
St. George Greek Church on Lincolnway at 77th.



1st Christian Church of New Elliott at 1815 S. Colfax.



Peace Lutheran Church on Parkway Drive founded in 1970.



Farm of Al & Marie (Seberger) Fetsch around 1955. The Fetsches were the first people married in the current St. Michael's Church. The farm was located on 77th (Seberger Road) just west of Chapel Lawn Cemetery. The property is now owned by Holy Ghost Orthodox Church from East Chicago, built in 1903 by Michael Seberger. All buildings except for the house are gone. The house has been made into the church rectory.



Pictured above: 1963 Connie Mack Champs.

Top row — Phil Govert, Ed Sherry, Dave Falda, Herb Rueth, Dave Garrett, and Bud Darnell.

Middle row — Dennis Zaveski, Jan Fane, Ivan Zimmer, Jim Adams, Bruce Mokate.

Front row — Gerry Scheub, Mgr.; Mike Hensley, Ken Robinson, Jerry Hancock, Jim Fiegle, and John Lesnewski, Assistant Manager.

Absent from picture: Joe Britton and Ron Austgen.

SPORTS IN SCHERERVILLE

Baseball

The Schererville Town League was started on September 13, 1954, under the leadership of Herb Govert, Al Hanson, Al Schreiber and Al Peifer. The first sign-up attracted a total of fifty-six boys in the age group of eight through twelve. The next order of business was to find a suitable place to play ball. Mr. Peifer contacted Father Biegel, pastor of St. Michael's, and presented a proposal to lease the land along Route 30 and Anna Street. Approval was granted and the construction of the field was begun in March. There was a large turnout of men who worked to complete the field for opening day, June 5, 1955.

Four teams made up the first Town League. They were the Sauzer Cards, Teibel Cubs, Watts Hardware Sox and Farm Bureau Yanks. The Yanks, managed by Cornelius Vanderkolk won the championship of the first season. A celebration banquet was held at Teibel's on October 3, 1955.

In 1956, a team managed by Abe Bryant was entered in the Pony League with Munster and Highland. The following year a team sponsored by

Hoosier State Bank was entered in the South Suburban Babe Ruth League. In 1959, construction was begun on a block concession and storage building. Its total cost was \$600.00.

By 1960, league registration was increasing rapidly and a minor league was established and a second team was entered in the South Suburban Babe Ruth League.

In 1963, a 13-15 year old league was started in Schererville and a team was entered the the Hammond Connie Mack League. The Connie Mack team, managed by Gerry Scheub, won the Hammond championship and played in the state finals in Evansville.

By the Centennial Year, the league had grown to a total of thirteen teams. The "Little League" age boys continued to play on the one diamond at St. Michaels and the older boys played at Redar Park.

Baseball was not fancy in those days. Schererville was the host for the Senior Babe Ruth State Finals in both 1970 and 1971. Redar Park Field was the site.

In 1972, the Town League was without a home. St. Michaels told the league that they could no longer use the field area. A massive job was undertaken to find and ready a place for Town League Baseball. Peifer School became the next site for the League. Considerable effort and cooperation were necessary to hasten the readiness of two fields for the start of the 1973 season. The Town League was now under the leadership of Tom Laskey.



The Town League's All-Star Team distinguished itself in both 1977 and 1978 by winning the Twin States Tournament in competition with eight other towns from both Illinois and Indiana.

Rich Jonas took over as President in 1975 and



Babe Ruth All-Star Team that won the District Championship, Area Championship and went to the state finals in Logansport in 1981.

served as Town League President through 1981. In the latter 70's, Jonas and Nancy Garvey, a very dedicated worker, embarked on a plan to raise funds for the purchase of land for more ball fields. They started a Bingo and by 1979, they had accumulated enough capital (over \$60,000) to purchase enough land for the construction of two "Little League" size diamonds and one "Babe Ruth" size diamond. The land was purchased from Clarence Rohrman for an amount in excess of \$40,000. After an inept effort by the Army Corp. of Engineers to grade the land, they contracted with Torrenga Engineering for the field layouts. Dewey Snow and Bob Bohling showed considerable generosity in the early development of the field area. As time has gone on the Town League has developed the two smaller diamonds and has purchased additional land from the Rohrmans for an additional field. The development of the Babe Ruth field was mainly done by the dedicated work of Bob Florkiewicz.

The year of 1979 also was the creation of Schererville Babe Ruth as a separate incorporated unit. Rich Jonas was its first president and served as president through the 1989 season. Schererville Babe Ruth has become a force in the region. In 1981 the All-Star team won the District and Area Championships and competed in the state finals in Logansport. In 1982 it repeated as District Champions. The 13-year old team reached the Semi-state level in 1990. In 1990, Rich Jonas wanted to "retire" from Schererville baseball after 17 years. He

and Bob Florkiewicz worked with the Town League so that the Babe Ruth League could be merged with the Town League.

Other notable historical dates include the installation of lights in 1984; concession stand building in 1986; the purchasing of additional property for a third small field in 1986, developing of the field in 1989 and the initial using of the field in 1990.

Schererville Baseball has come a long way since its beginning in 1954. Over the last ten years, in excess of 50 local businesses have supported the league and in 1990 over 600 youth participated in Town League Baseball.

Past Presidents for the Town League have been Al Peifer (1955-66 various times), Tom Laskey (1973), Chuck Rubarts (1974), Rich Jonas (1975-81), Ed Brozak (1982-83), Dennis Sheaks (1984), Vic Banter (1985-86), Rene Vela (1987-88), Ron Nalezny (1989-90), Jerry Kisela (current). Babe Ruth Presidents have been Rich Jonas (1979-89), Joe Stephens (1990).

Softball

Girl's Softball, even though it existed since 1957, was not covered in the Centennial Booklet. It was started in 1957 by Alice Siebert. At that time there were 15 girls in the 10-12 age range. They were called the "A" All-Stars. There were 15 girls in the 8-10 age group and they were called the "B" All-Stars. The following year three teams in the 10-12 year-old group started the first Inter-town League. As time passed and interest was aroused two leagues of four teams each was established. The 8-10 year-old league grew to a six-team league and the 10-12 remained at four. However two traveling teams were organized. One of the teams was for 13-18 year-olds and was coached by David Schweitzer. The other included the ages of 15-25 and was coached by Jack and Alice Siebert. These two teams competed with similar teams from other towns in the area.

In the early days it was difficult in getting Girl's Softball organized because there were no fields, no money and very little help. The Schererville Town League granted the girls permission to use their field located on St. Michael's open field along Anna Street and Route 30. Their use was limited to Friday nights so all games had to be played that day. Practices were held wherever open ground could be found. After much discussion with the Town Board and the Park Commission, a small area on the south corner of Redar Park was set aside for Girl's Softball. With the help of C.D. Green and Bill Govert, the area was made into a ballfield. Through the help of the Lion's Club, a backstop was erected and later the Lion's Club contributed to the fencing and dugouts.

Additional support for the Girl's Softball came from Frank Sauzer Sr., The Civic Fund, Registration Fees, Candy Sales and, for some years, a joint venture in an Annual Turkey Raffle with the Town League. Jack and Alice Siebert, after over ten years of dedicated service, relinquished their responsibilities



Girls Softball

FRONT ROW:

*Linda Fortener
Gayle Govert
Darlene Thiel
Joanne Schelfo
Bonnie Siebert*

BACK ROW:

*Vera Miller (Coach)
Marie Molson
Debbie Hall
Patty Kelly
Cheryl Davis
Jackie Siebert
Mary Kay Hilbrich
Alice Siebert (Manager)*

of the league to Gerry Scheub in August of 1978.

Alice recalls softball for local girls actually existed in the late 30's. This was not in the league set-up that is thought of now. At that time there was one independent team playing against teams from other towns including East Chicago, Brunswick, Hammond, Gary, Steger, etc. In 1945, the independent team from Schererville went to the state finals against Logansport where they were defeated by a 4-3 score. Another of her memories of early softball goes back to World War II days when they played the Steel City Chicks for Joe Louis Day at Gleason Park in Gary. They had servicemen who were home on leave as escorts. Their manager had been Arnold Peifer until he left for service and turned the team over to Arnold Hilbrich. Peifer later started the Town League for boys.

Those were the days, or were they? Girl's Softball still plays at Redar Park, but they also have facilities at Stephen Park. Hundreds of girls participate every year and many teams have distinguished themselves. Unfortunately repeated requests for additional new information have been ignored. However, girl's softball is very alive and well as can be evidenced by the activity at their ball diamonds.

Soccer

Schererville's third participant sport is soccer. This is the new kid on the block. However, the kid has grown very quickly. The Schererville Soccer Club held its first organizational meeting in March of 1980 under the guidance of its founding President Harry Leckie, a native of Scotland. The Club's programs include recreational and competitive play for the youth of Schererville, St. John, and the St. John Township. Since rallying 138 participants in 1980, the Club has grown to over 500 participants annually.

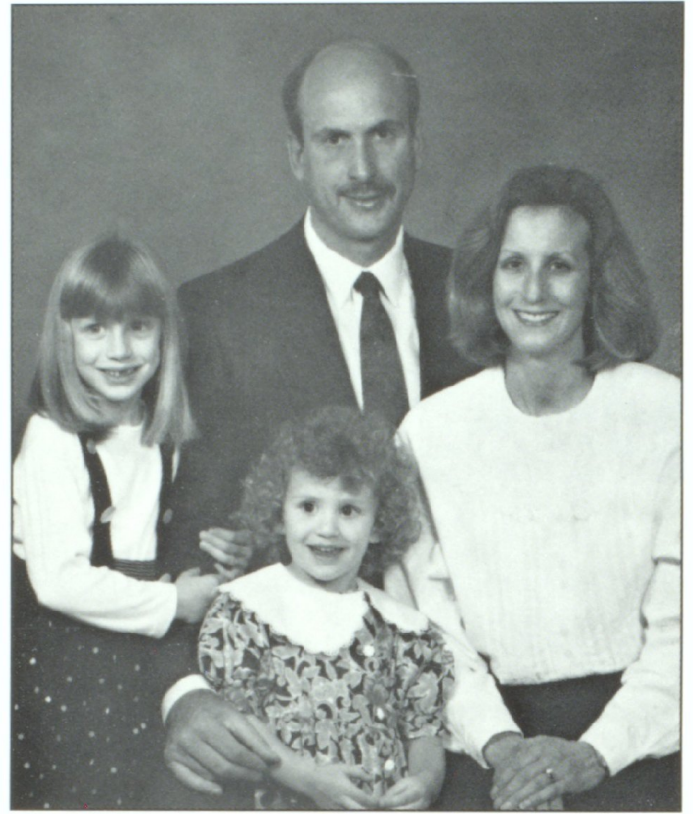
The Club is a sanctioned affiliate of the nationally recognized Soccer Association for Youth (SAY), which provides a recreational format and philosophy for play in town. S.S.C. also participates in the Northwest Indiana Soccer League, competing with clubs from communities in Lake and Porter counties.

Current officers are: President, John Gallagher; Vice-President, Len Wychocki; Secretary, Lillian Kakidas; and Treasurer, Rich Simaga.



HAWK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

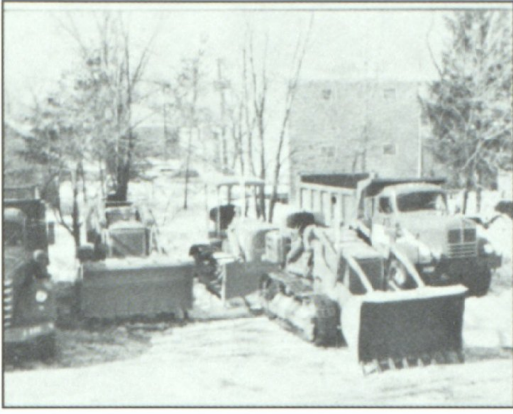
J.W. Hawk, president of Hawk Development, is also the founder of the company and is responsible for all residential and commercial project management including the development of Foxwood Estates, Sand Oaks Estates and, most recently, the construction of Burger King restaurants in Chicago, IL and Dyer, IN. He handles the relationships with all building subcontractors and manages a quality control program for all development and building.



***Pictured Above in 1992:
Jim Hawk, Moira Lynn Hawk,
Jamie Age 7 and Jessica Age 4.***



Wm. Walters Excavating



Old equipment 137 E. Joliet St.



**854 Kennedy
William A. Jr., Eileen, William Sr.**



William L. (Bill) Walters started Wm. Walters Excavating in March 1972. He had a small shop and housed his equipment at 137 E. Joliet in the rear part of the Modern Heating & Cooling shop and office. His son William A. joined him in the business in 1973. In 1983 the office was moved from the Walters' home south of Dyer, to 139 E. Joliet. Wm. Walters Excavating, Inc. moved to their present location at 854 Kennedy Ave. in April 1989.

Bill and Eileen Witvliet Walters have lived in and around Dyer for 40 years. Bill grew up in Munster and attended Hammond Tech. Eileen grew up in a rural area of Chicago Heights. Their five children, Linda, Bill, Sondra, Brenda and Rhonda attended Lake Central.



**Back Left: Brenda (Walters) Barsic
Back Right: Cathy (Poston) Walters
Front Left: Naomi Barsic
Front Right: Eileen (Witvliet) Walters**

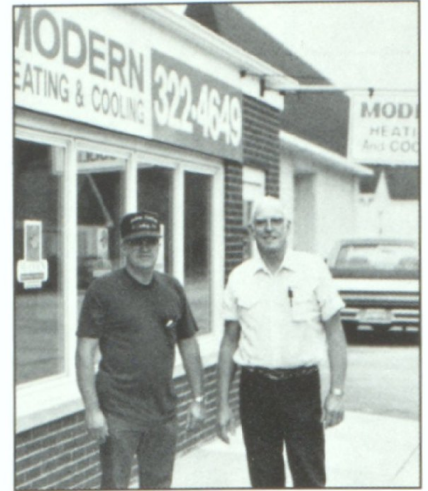


**Left to Right: Mark Davis, Scott
Watson, Wm. A. Walters, Wm. L.
Walters, Thomas Farrenhopf, Kevin
Jones**

MODERN HEATING & COOLING



John Maas Highway Garage, 137 E. Joliet



*John Witvliet and
Ronald Brady*



Left to Right: Jeff Kinder, Peter Brady, Jerome Joseph, Ron Brady, Kevin Ervin, Jim Ochs, Frank Eaton, John Witvliet, John Witvliet Jr., and Richard Asplund. Not pictured: John Joseph, Dwayne Kuipers, Randy Harms, Michael Turley.



*John and Grace (Wood)
Witvliet. New offices in
the old John Maas Home*



Tammy (Witvliet) Zditosky

On March 1st, 1963, Modern Heating and Cooling opened it's doors at 141 E. Joliet in Schererville, IN. The business began to grow. In 1965 they built an office at 139 E. Joliet for Richardson Chemical. In 1970 Modern Heating and Cooling bought and moved into the warehouse at 137 E. Joliet St. As the business grew over the years they needed more room again, so in 1983 they moved their offices to 139 E. Joliet while still using 137 E. Joliet as their warehouse. In 1988 the Company needed more space, so they added on to the warehouse. The company again needed to expand in 1992, so they remodeled the old house at 141 E. Joliet into new offices. Our offices now occupy 141 E. Joliet, and 139 E. Joliet. Our warehouse is still located at 137 E. Joliet. (Old John Maas Highway Garage).

Ronald Brady and John Witvliet, the owners of Modern Heating and Cooling, Inc., are still hard at work. They wish to see the business continue to grow so that their sons John Witvliet Jr. and Peter Brady can carry on the family tradition.



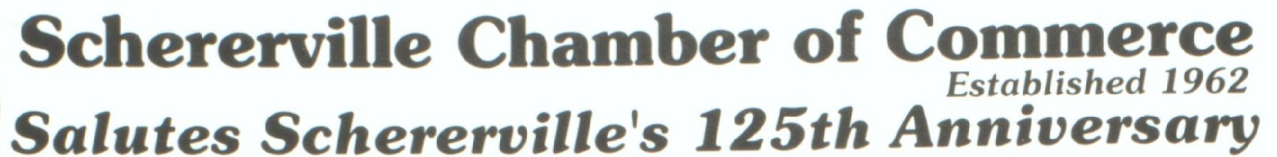
Supply
House

TIMES

May 1975

George Koremenos, pres. of the
Koremen Co., and his wife, Fran, in
Chinese style kitchen, one of several
vignettes in their lavish showroom.

Koremen Co:
A New
Twist In
Multi-Line
Wholesaling

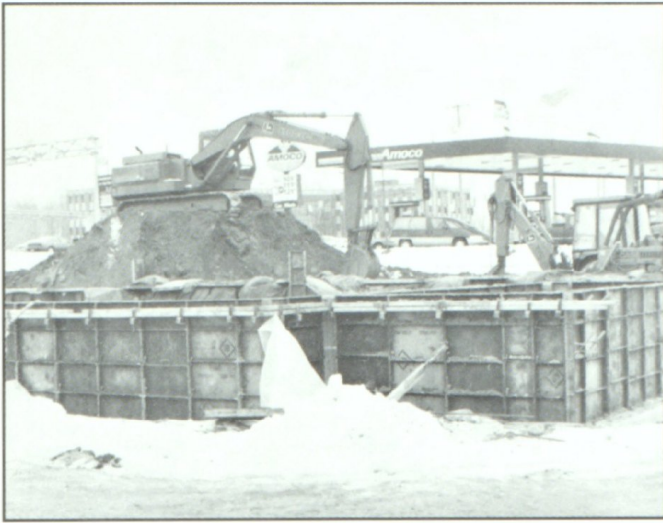


☆ 1993 Membership — Strong & Proud ☆

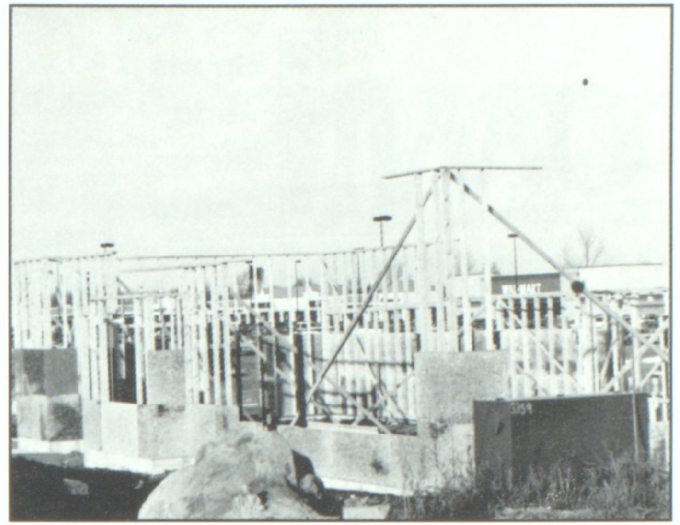
Purdue University Calumet
 Ralph Electrical Service
 Reflections Of Time
 Rising Star Martial Arts
 Rollin' On RVs
 Rottier Builders
 Round The Clock Rest.
 SJS Sweat Shop
 St. Anthony/Scher. Phys.
 Diagnostic Center
 St. Margaret Mercy Health
 Care Center
 Salon Forty-One
 Sauzer's Amusement Park
 SBC Supply
 Schererville Florist &
 Gift Shop
 Schererville Inn
 Schererville Lounge
 Schererville Lumber
 Schererville Library
 Schererville Schwinn
 Scherwood Golf Concession
 Scherwood South
 School Stuff
 Sec. Fed/Stability Mtg.
 Sherwood Lake Apts.
 Singleton Crist, Patterson,
 Austgen & Lyman
 Southlake Center Assoc.
 State Farm Insurance
 (Jarrett)
 State Farm Insurance
 (Kozlowski)
 State Farm Insurance
 (Miskovich)
 State Line Pizza
 Strack & Van Til
 Stress Or Us
 Taco Bell
 Teibel's Restaurant
 The Quest Eatery
 The Times
 Tom & Ed's Auto Body Inc.
 Tradewinds Rehabilitation
 Center, Inc.
 Tri-City Communications Inc.
 Tri-State Coach Lines Inc.
 Unitel Northwest
 Villa Cesare
 Vogue Cleaners
 Wal-Mart
 Walgreen Drugs
 Wm. Walters Excavating
 James Watt Inc. CPA
 Whiteco Metrocom
 Women's Center of
 St. Margaret Mercy Hospital
 & Health Centers
 The Woodshop Inc.

*Working Together,
Planning For
The Future.*

Minuteman Press
Mize Towne & Countree Auto
Sales
Modern Heating & Cooling
Muffler Connexion
National City Bank
NBD Bank
Northern IN Public Ser. Co.
Northwest Oral Surgeons
O'Drobinak, Austgen &
Goad, P.C.
Ogden Engineering
Omni Sport Physical
Therapy P.C.
Omni 41 Sports & Fitness
Centre
Orthodontics Inc.
Park Center Office Plaza
Peoples Bank
Physician Plus
Pine Island Apts.
Pizza Hut
Popeyes Famous Fried
Chicken & Biscuits
Post Tribune
Prism Painting Co.
Progress Pump & Machine
Ser. Inc.
Progressive Family Foot
Care
Prompt Radiator Center
Prudential Ins. Co. of Am.



1-16-93. We are located at the N.E. Corner
of U.S. 30 & 41



1-30-93. We are proud to be located at
"The Crossroads" of the nation.



Left to Right Top: Bev
Harville, Jackie Stillman,
Jeff Stillman, Sharon
Stillman. Front Seated:
Katie Stillman, Sharon
Stillman.

*LOVE THAT
CHICKEN!*



MERRILLVILLE
On Mississippi Street
Across from Southlake Mall
(219) 769-6020

GRIFFITH PLAZA
Ridge Road and Cline Avenue
(219) 838-6164

SCHERERVILLE
Lincoln Highway and Rt. 41
(219) 865-9100



4-15-93. Bryan Melcic,
Manager; Donna (Laine)
Moore, Assistant Manager



Speedy Drive-Thru service for your
convenience



Jeff and Popeye are teaming up to provide
you with the great taste of Popeye's
Chicken!



Sports
and
Fitness
Centre

865-6969

Mr. Joseph J. Pellar, an original stockholder of Omni 41, is now the sole proprietor. He is proud to have served the community for almost 20 years. The image he has created at Omni is dedicated to promoting a healthier lifestyle to everyone. We, at Omni 41, believe fitness is ageless.

1973 - 1993

Breaking Ground at Omni 41 Sports & Fitness Center



Left to Right: Joseph J. Pellar (owner), Norbert Fortener, Herman Parker, John Dreesen (Schererville Board '72) and Richard A. Murray (owner).

James L. Watt^{Inc.}
Certified Public Accountants

Serving
SCHERERVILLE, ST. JOHN and DYER
Since 1980

1802 Robin Hood Blvd. at U.S. 30
Schererville 322-7100

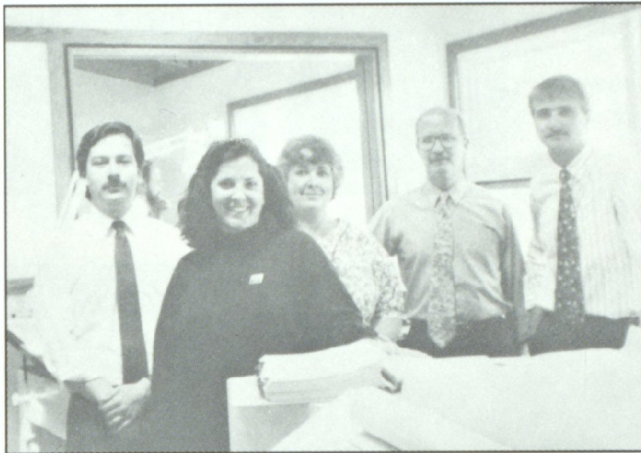


James L. Watt



Dan Szany, Nate Carras

Nathan A. Carras and Associates founded in Hammond, Indiana in **1958** became **Carras-Szany & Associates, Inc.** in **1982**. We joined the Schererville Community by moving into the newly renovated Robert's home on Route 30 in April **1992**.



Left to Right: David Reyes, Athene Carras, Mary Pry, Mark McColley, Tom Kuhn

Schererville Projects include
 Calumet National Bank
 INB Bank
 Homan and Piefer Elementary Schools
 Scherwood Lake Apartments
 Nottingham Square
 Dyer-Schererville Branch Library.



Office Building

Carras-Szany & Associates, Inc.
Architects
 6919 Lincoln Highway
 Schererville, Indiana
 (219) 322-5950

NOTABLE TOWN OFFICIALS

HERMAN A. PARKER

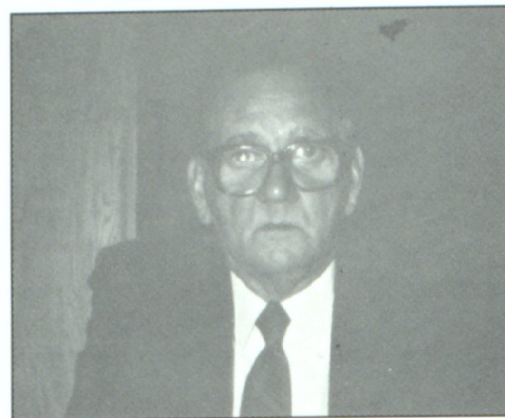
Town Administrator 3/12/85 to 9/30/88

Town Manager 10/1/88 to 10/31/90

Project Manager 9/27/90 to 7/31/91

Town Manager 7/31/91 to 6/30/92

Retired 6/30/92



RICHARD KRAMER

Employed by Town from 1/1/89 to 4/7/91,
and 6/17/91 to present

Titles Held:

Code Enforcement Officer

Assistant Town Manager

Acting Public Works Director

Building & Planning supervisor

Stormwater Drainage Supervisor

Acting Town Manager 7/1/92 to 8/16/92



RONALD C. BRADLEY

Town Manager at time of 125th 11/1/90 to 7/23/91
(left office due to terminal illness)



TOWN BOARD AT TIME OF 125TH

Top Left to Right: Vic Banter, Larry Tucker, John Fladeland. Bottom Left to Right: Tom Kouros, David Shake, Clarence Kuhn.



CURRENT TOWN BOARD

Top Left to Right: Larry Briski, David Shake, Hank Adams, Tom Kouros. Bottom Left to Right: John Fladeland and Mary Jascula.

Schererville Historic Celebrations

Schererville's 100th

Schererville was a small, closely-knit town in 1966 when it turned 100. Looking over the list of participants in the Centennial Celebration makes one think that everyone in town was involved in some way or the other. Men grew beards or went to "jail". There were Centennial bow-ties, hats, etc. People dressed up in old clothes. Activities were planned covering days. Everyone was involved and pulled in one direction to make it a great, well-remembered time. Some of the pictures of that event are in the pages that follow.

Schererville's 125th

The Schererville population at the time of the 125th is many times greater than it was in 1966. From a historical view, it should be recorded that, in spite of much hard work from some very dedicated individuals, harmony was lacking in the planning of the 125th Celebration. However, many people enjoyed the events which included a Parade, a big Carnival, a Classic Car Show (which made the front page of the Sunday Hammond Times), Fireworks, a Demolition Derby, a Circus, an Arts & Crafts Show, etc.

The Carnival was set at the Illiana Speedway, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Molenaar, on U.S.

Route 30. It featured professional entertainment including The Coasters, three fireworks shows, food booths, a magic show, pig races, pony rides, camel rides, a petting zoo, a beer garden, a 40 ride/game midway, a demolition derby, a stock car race and more. There were no charges to park or to enter. The entertainment, such as The Coasters, who are a popular 50's singing group, was free. The weather was beautiful for this event which began on June 26, 1991, and concluded on Sunday, June 30. Many people attended one or more of the evenings to enjoy all that was offered. Some pictures of the 125th follow this section.

Many people worked very hard on both celebrations. The use of names in this book, like the Centennial one, has been profuse. However, to list some names here for either event would be to leave out many and, possibly, cause bruised feelings. While memories will remember the 125th as a fun-filled time, it must be historically reported that it was not a financial success. However, the efforts of those involved with both celebrations cannot be doubted.

And Finally

Schererville did not have a Queen for its 125th. However, there was a Queen of Schererville for the Centennial. Her name—Judy Teibel.



Schererville 125th Celebration Committee - Left to Right: Gerry Scheub, Smokey Smith, Mike Troxell, Vic Banter, Rich Jonas, Jim Ilovic, (seated are) Pat McAlister, JoAnn Domsic-Stephen, Mary Jascula, Bonnie Rosenberg-Krooswyk and Patricia Dykstra-Sons. Others were involved but not at meeting when picture was taken.





*Model A pickup with Jim Ikovic and two friends.
It is owned by the Schallers of Highland.*



Bill Yothment's Cadillac and award-winning Buick



1919 Nash owned by Chuck Marsh from Griffith.



*Schererville "Spaceship" policecar at Classic Car Show.
Tim Marr and Eric Anderson with a friend, Sue.*



Restored Model A Police Car from the Classic Car Show.



Leonard Sizemore's vintage Studebaker at the Schererville Classic Car Show held at Lake Central on June 23, 1991





Harry & Signe Molenaar. The 125th was held at thier Illiana Speedway.



Vic Banter and daughter Mary at the 125th.



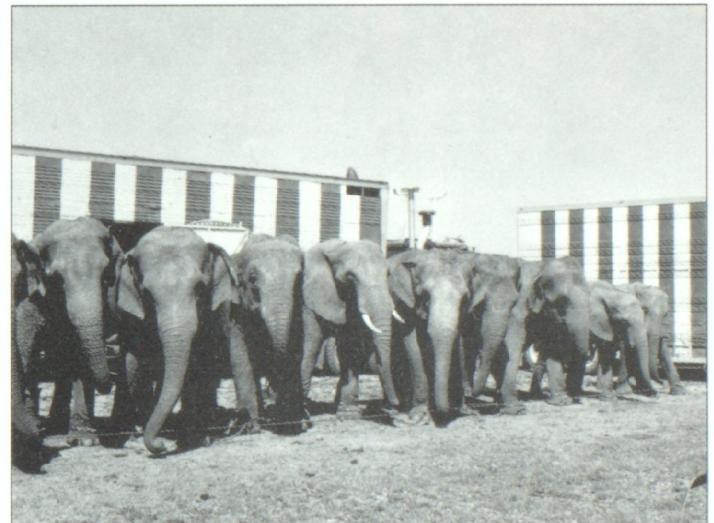
Hardee's under construction. This was the first business to open in the new shopping plaza. It opened on January 3, 1991.



Happy Birthday Schererville from the Kuhns on Joliet Street.



Part of the attraction at the 125th parade on June 29, 1991.



Even the elephant came to the circus at Illiana Speedway on August 24, 1991.



Advertising the 125th at Routes 30 & 41



Some of the circus ticket buyers at the 125th



Schererville Lumber's float in the 125th parade on June 29, 1991



The Olympic Flame parade entry at the 125th parade



Scouts plant trees to beautify town.
Leaders in group are from left: Paul Lewkowski, James Gauthier, Robert Teegarden, and John Parker.



Part of the Centennial Celebration in 1966



Centennial activity in parking lot of Big Top -now Stracks.



Fundraising meeting for the Centennial at Homan School on February 12, 1966. Pictured are Bud Phillips, Shirley Phillips, Mrs. Dorothy Moss, Mary Skinner and Don Newhouser



Groundbreaking for Cross Roads Plaza in July of 1990.

Left to right:

- Tom Kouros -
Town Councilman
- Claybourne Ridgely
President of B.Z.A.,
Plan Commission, V.P.
- Steve Tokarski -
Attorney
- Joe Funderlic -
Town Councilman
- Glen Eberly -
Supt. of Planning &
Building
- Nick Anast -
Town Attorney
- Larry Tucker -
Town Councilman
- Victor Banter - Town
Council, President
- Richard Krame - Asst.
Town Manager
- Richard Wolf - Plan
Commission, President





Above left - Sauzers in the 80's



Above right - Eddie's Standard operated by John Mattingly on August 27, 1991 (where new Standard and Checkers are currently doing business)



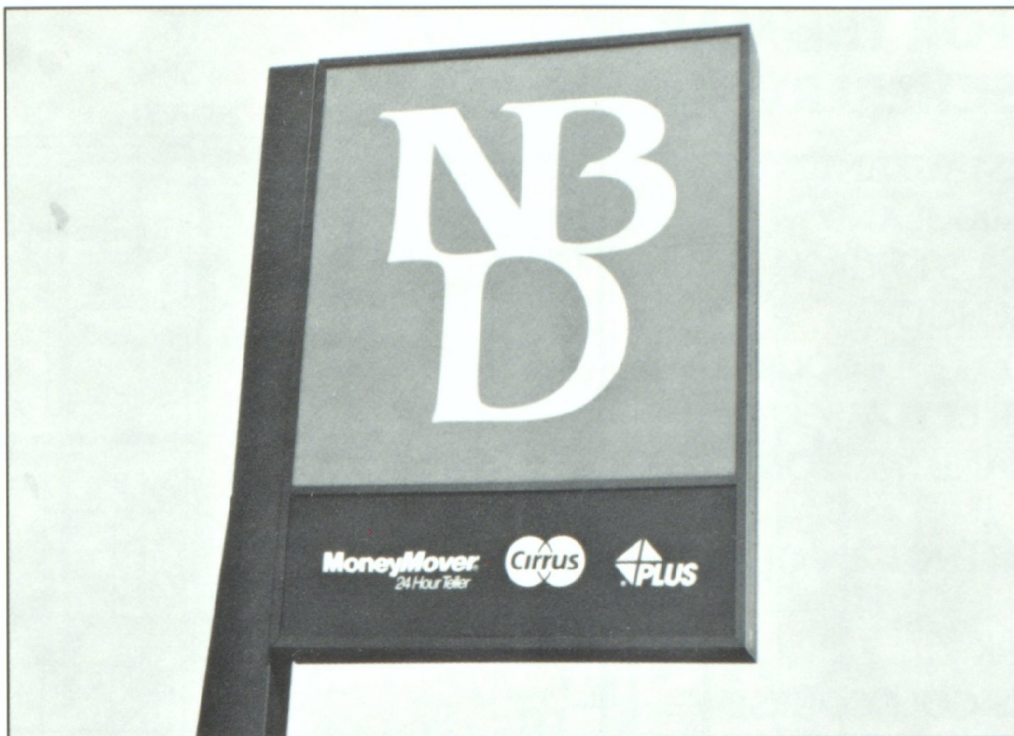
Right - Sauzers coming down on Nov. 20, 1990.



Still under construction on June 20, 1992.



Kiddieland from the top of the Enterprise Building on June 10, 1992.



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FDIC

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Message From: Dyer & Schererville Bank

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Schererville History for
the past 15 years as a
Dentist and Resident

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General Family Denistry

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SCHERERVILLE ON YOUR
125TH ANNIVERSARY



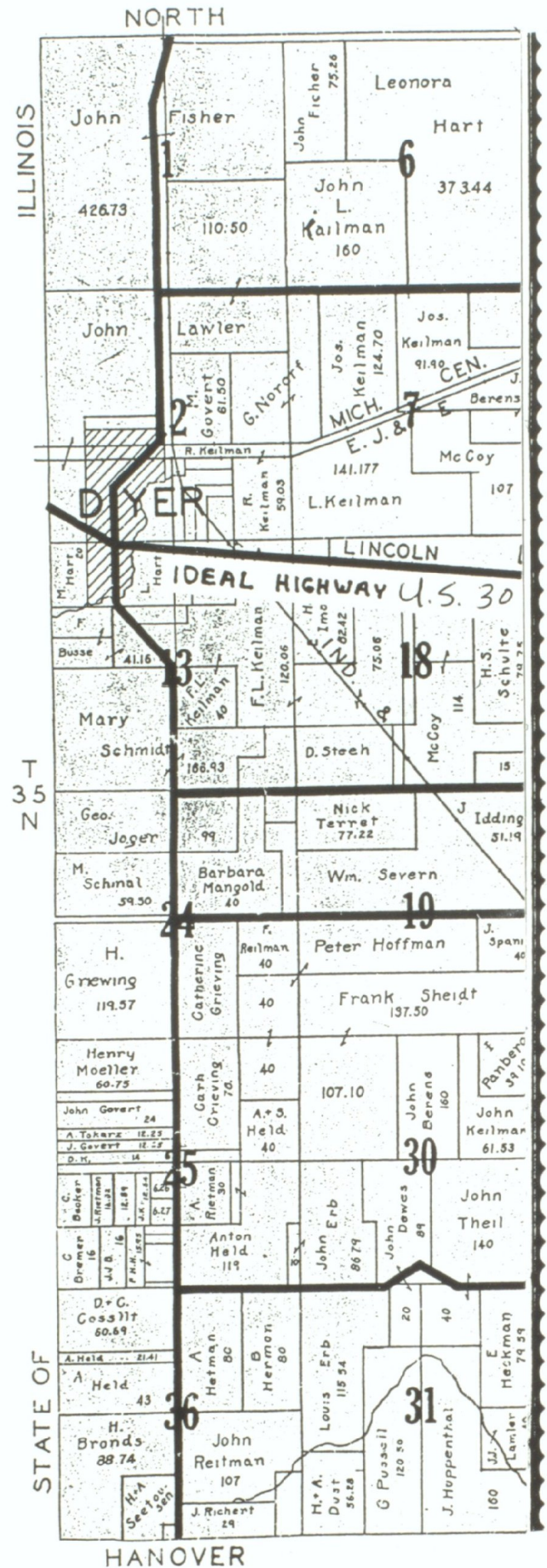
RON AUSTGEN
Senior
Account Agent



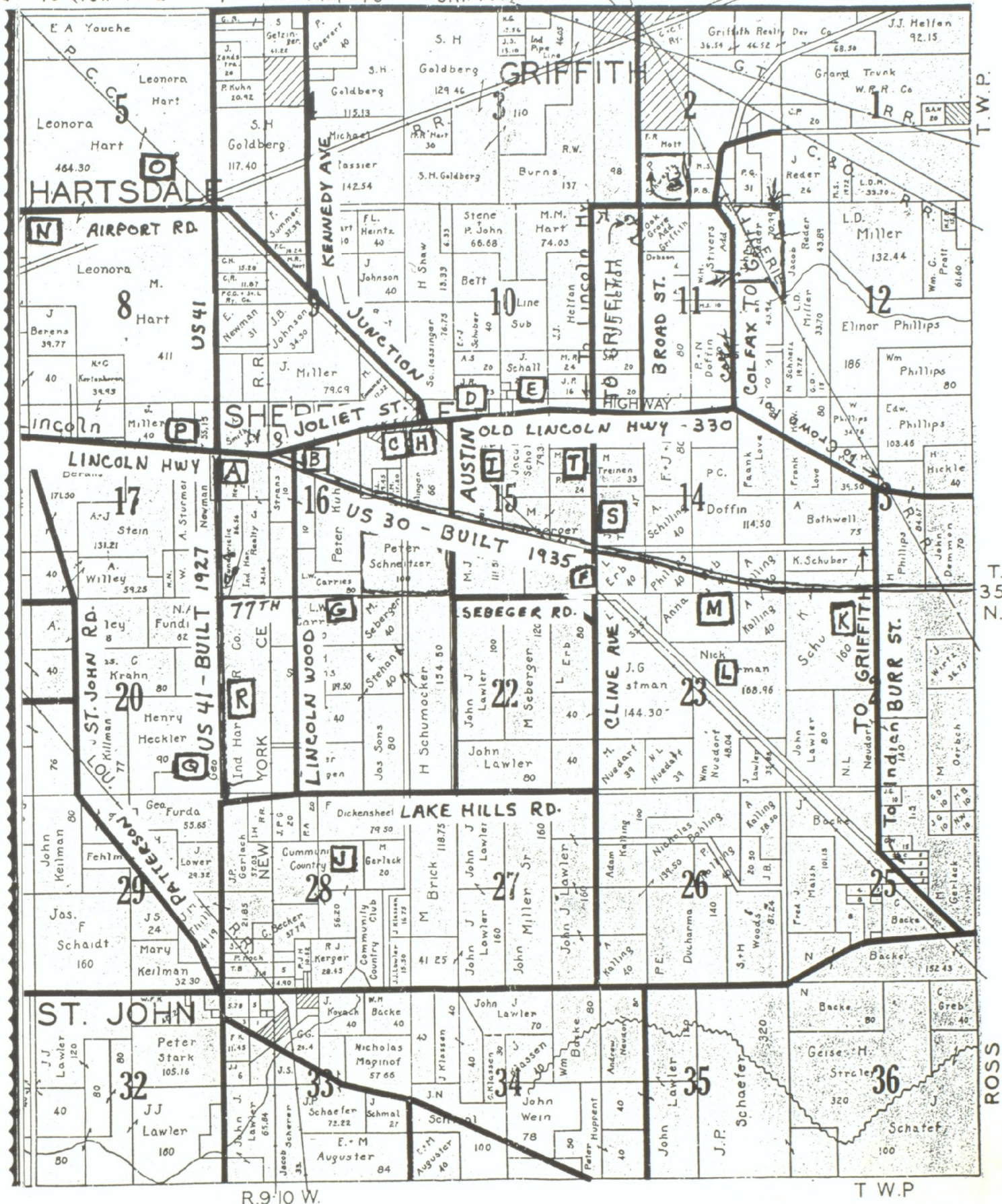
MIKE HOWE
Senior
Account Agent

A TEIBELS RESTAURANT
B BANK OF HIGHLAND
C ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
D HOMAN SCHOOL
E SHERWOOD GOLF COURSE
F SCHERERVILLE LUMBER
G GRIMMER AND WATSON SCHOOLS
H OLD TOWN HALL & POLICE STATION
I REDAR PARK
J LAKE HILLS GOLF COURSE
K HYLES-ANDERSON SCHOOL
L NEW TOWN BASEBALL & PARK COMPLEX
M ILLIANA SPEEDWAY
N OLD TRIANGLE AIRPORT
O OLD HART FARM
P KIDDIELAND
Q LAKE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
R STAN'S BODY SHOP
S HOOSIER BOYS' TOWN
T PEIFER GRADE SCHOOL

* This is a map of the St. John Township at the turn-of-the-century. Some past and present landmarks are superimposed to give perspective to today. The names that you see in the map are the property owners of record at the turn-of-the-century as reported by the company that prepared the original map at the turn-of-the-century.



T.W.P.



T W.P

PATRONS

MR. & MRS. ROBERT J. ADLEY
DAVID & MARY ANDREWS FAMILY
REX & CAROLE ATCHISON
FRANCIS J. AUSTGEN & FAMILY
THE EARL BELL FAMILY
THE CHIP BELL FAMILY
MR. & MRS. ROBERT BEUCUS
JOHN & MARGIE BLASKOVICH FAMILY
VICTOR AND DORIS BOHNEY
WILLIAM & ROSEMARY BOHNEY FAMILY
WALTER H. BORMAN
ROBERT J. & THERESA BRITTON FAMILY
DIANA BRITTON FAMILY
ARTHUR BROPHY FAMILY
CHUCK & DEBBIE BURK FAMILY
MARY & VIRGIL CLACCI
JULIE CLELAND & THE WEBB CHILDREN
WALTER AND LINDA COOLEY FAMILY
VERNE COSTA
CHARLES & CLARA CRAVEN, CECILIA,
LOIS, MILDRED, LAVERNE,
VELMA & JOSETTA
HAROLD AND JUDI CRIDER
DAVID & MARILYN CUMMINGS, DARCI
(KEVIN REED), DAVID C.
(MELISSA SANINO) ATKINSON
STEPHEN & NETTIE CURTIS FAMILY
HERMAN & MARGE DICKMAN FAMILY
DAVE & RENA DOAN
ELMER & DOTTIE DOCTOR
PAUL & KATHY DOHERTY
ROBERT AND ELISE WALKER DUNCAN
ED & ROSE EXTIN AND FAMILY
TERRY AND JERRI FARRELL
ROBERT "BOB" FETSCH
PAUL & JOANNE FREELAND FAMILY
JOSEPH D. & ANN FUNDERLIC FAMILY
FRANK & HELEN GARD
RAYMOND GARD & BRITNEY GARD
JAMES & JULIE GENOVESI FAMILY
DAVE & BOBBI GOINS FAMILY
JULIUS GORDON JR.
MR. & MRS. JULIUS GORDON SR.
CHRISTOPHER S. GORDON AND
LINDSAY A. GORDON
DAVE & ANNETTE GORDON
WILLIAM J. GOVERT (1912-87) & FAMILY
MR. & MRS. JOE GOVERT
HERMAN & VIRGINIA BORMAN GRIMMER

RALPH & HAZEL GRIMMER
MR. & MRS. HUBERT P. GRUMMER SR.
STAND AND LOIS GRZYCH
ROUTE 30 VIDEO INC.
THE HANFT FAMILY
AL & BETTY HANSEN
RON & MARION HANSON
NELSON & INEZ HARTLEY FAMILY
JOSEPH & GERALDINE (CHALKO) HEINTZ
ROY HEROLD FAMILY
R. JEFF HORVATH &
MYRNA R. JOHNSON HORVATH
JAMES AND LINDA SCHWEITZER HULTZ
ROGER & LOIS HUNTINGTON FAMILY
JERRY AND SHIRLEY MC GLINN
JANDA FAMILY
JAMES AND DOROTHY JANSEN FAMILY
JOHN & MARY JASKULA & FAMILY
RICHARD L. JOHNSON
MIKE & LAURA MASTHEY JONAS
RICH & BETTY LESNIAK JONAS,
SUE & MARK
LOUIE, MARYANN, ANNE-MARIE,
& CHRIS KAVOURINOS
TRUDY KEILMAN
THOMAS KENNEDY FAMILY
KEVIN & JENNIFER KOLASINSKI
ED KOZLOWSKI INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
NORMAN & JENNIE KRISTOFF FAMILY
THE KROOSWYK'S-RUSS, BONNIE,
MARK & KRISTI
KRISTIN L. KUHN
MEL & CAROLYN LANKFORD & FAMILY
TOM, VAL & TOMMY LASKEY
MR. & MRS. DONALD LASKEY
NANCY & RICH LAUDEMAN FAMILY
JOSEPH & LORETTA LESNIEWSKI FAMILY
GERRY LEYDET FAMILY
JOSEPHINE LOEHMER
GREGORY P. & CHERYL A. MARREN FAMILY
STAN & JEAN MASTHEY, JERRY, NANCY,
CAROLE, PAUL, JOE, LAURA
WILLIAM AND EVELYN REDAR MATHEWS
MICHAEL A. MATLOCK
LAVADA MC CREARY & CARLA
MC CREARY SCOTT
MR. THOMAS J. MIKOS & ELISABETH A.
& AMY K. MIKOS

PATRONS ... Continued

MR. & MRS. WALTER MISTA
 JIM & JEANNE GINOL MRZLOCK FAMILY
 JAMES & MELISSA MULCAHEY FAMILY
 GEORGE & LUCILLE NIEBLING
 LEM H. OLS, JR.
 JOHN & RUTH OLSEN FAMILY
 VICTORY & ALEXIS JARRETT O'YEK
 SANDY & MIKE PANAGIOTIS
 HERMAN & BETTY PARKER
 RON & JUDEEN PEIFER FAMILY
 WILLIAM J. & JANET (ZIMMER),
 WILLIAM B., CHRISTINE, LUCRETIA &
 ERIC PENMAN
 FRANK V., JUANITA, AMY, SCOTT PETERS
 ELENA POPA ALGER POPA FAMILY
 JIM & DIANA PREMESKE FAMILY
 JOHN & MARY PUNAK FAMILY
 MATTHEW & KAREN RADENCIC FAMILY
 BOB, DIANA, BILL, HEATHER RAKOCZY
 CLAYBOURNE & ALICE RIDGELY
 EDMUND L. RISCH FAMILY
 RAYMOND & LJUBICA ROKOSZ FAMILY
 MR. & MRS. PETER ROTTIER
 MS. KATHERINE G. RUDERSHAUSEN
 FRED & VERA (SCHULTE) RUIZ &
 CHILDREN FRED, MARIO, KELSEY
 DANIEL & MARY ANN SAPP
 RAY & BARBARA SAUNDERS
 TOM & MONA SCHMITT FAMILY
 WILMA & VERNON SCHULTE
 GERARD R. SCHULTE
 MARSHALL & DONNA SCHULTZ FAMILY
 THOMAS AND JANIS HAMMAN
 SCHWEITZER
 EILEEN M. SCHWEITZER
 ARTHUR AND DORIS BRINER SCHWEITZER
 DIANE SCHWEITZER
 ALLEN & CAROL SCHWEITZER FAMILY
 THOMAS J. & KATHRYN P. SHANLEY AND
 PATRICK T. SHANLEY
 JOHN & ALICE SIEBERT FAMILY
 ANDREW & ANN SILVOLA FAMILY
 LEONARD & GISELLA SIZEMORE FAMILY
 TIM & SHEREE SKERTICH FAMILY
 JIM & AMELIA STAMEY FAMILY
 STEVE & SANDY JONAS STUM
 FLOYD AND HATTIE FIELDS SUMNER
 FRANCES F. SUMNER
 LONNIE & PAMELA SWARENS

TOM & BECKY TALAGA FAMILY
 EUGENE & IRENE TAYLOR FAMILY
 ROBERT AND BETTY, AND RUTH ANN
 TEEGARDEN
 BOB & MARY THIEL FAMILY
 ARTHUR & SANDRA TOMASZEWSKI FAMILY
 JOHN & CATHIE TOWNSEND
 JAMES & PHYLLIS VARGO FAMILY
 RICHARD & ARLENE WAGNER FAMILY
 MR. & MRS. WILBUR WEIN
 MR. & MRS. ARTHUR L. WILLISON
 MR. & MRS. BILLY F. WOOD
 GERALD & PAMELA ZIEMKIEWICZ FAMILY

In Loving Memory of
HATTIE MILLER BORMAN
by Herman and Virginia Borman Grimmer

In Loving Memory of
JOE CRAVEN
by the Schererville Jaycees

In Loving Memory of
NICHOLAS & AGNES GERLACH DOFFIN
by Nicholas and Genevieve Doffin

In Loving Memory of
JOHN AND MARY MAAS FAMILY
by John and Shirley Maas Sedlak

In Loving Memory of
MARY KAY SCHIESSER
by Friends

In Loving Memory of Grandparents,
HENRY SR. & MARY BEIRIGER SCHULTE
by Clarence and Dorothy Schweitzer Schulte

In Loving Memory of Great-Grandparents,
HENRY SR. & MARY BEIRIGER SCHULTE
by Robert and Carolyn Johnson Schulte

In Loving Memory of
JOHN H. SCHWEITZER
by Darly and Lynn Carter Schweitzer Family

In Loving Memory of
PETER & MARY REDER SCHWEITZER
by Herbert and Margaret Schweitzer Gerlach

In Loving Memory of
THE MICHAEL SEBERGER FAMILY
by the Fetch's, Ron, Bev, Jacob and Jonathan

In Loving Memory of
BILL SKINNER
by the Mary Skinner Family

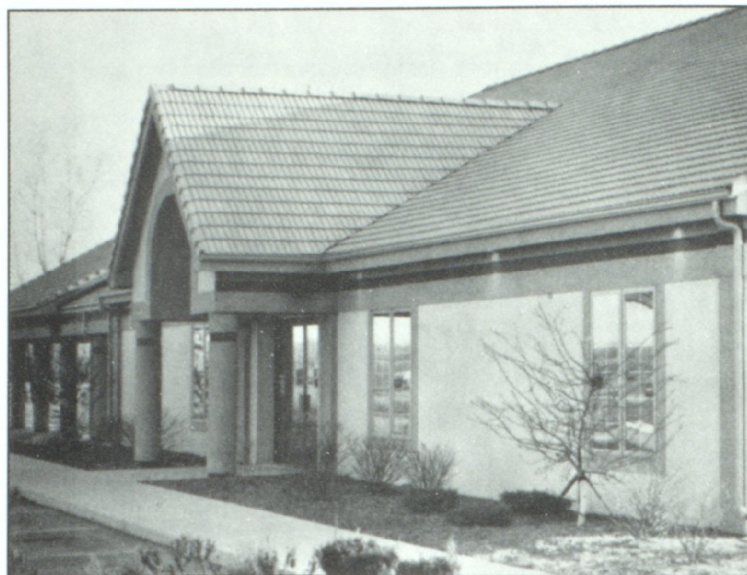
In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH E. ZIMMER
by Irene M., Ira P. and Jason L. Zimmer

First National Bank Brings Proud Heritage to Schererville in 1991



Dale Johnson and Wayne Stelzer view the First National sign that gave way to the National City Bank sign in June of 1993.

Now as National City Bank a full and expanded range of banking services are offered in Schererville.



The First National Office in Schererville opened in October, 1991. First National started in East Chicago in 1909.



Pictured (Left to Right): Dale Johnson, Snezana Lozevska, Ada Williams, Rosalie Bowman, Wayne Stelzer



Dale Johnson and Wayne Stelzer view interest rates in mid 1993

THE STORY OF SCHERERVILLE

BY VIRGINIA (BORMAN) GRIMMER (1966)

Long before the white-man knew
About this land where eagle flew,
The red-man lived by old design
Amid sand dunes and tow'ring pine.
For years on end so goes the tale,
He gathered berries, hunted quail,
Abundant game he oft did stalk
Along the trail now known as Sauk.
The Indians used this passageway
For centuries they so do say.
As time wore on each hill and dale
Frenchmen next did trod this trail,
Brought with them the Christian zeal
By Jesuits with faith of steel.
They ministered to tribes about,
To Pottawatomie...no doubt.
In later years the English cam
And traders of forgotten name,
They crossed this very country-side
Laden down with pelts and hide.
Thence came turmoil, wars until
Treaties, signed restored good-will.
Then o'er this region of the world,
The U.S. banner was unfurled...
In Eighteen sixteen state-hood came
And spread about was Hoosier fame.
Years kept swiftly rolling by
Until men lay the rail-way tie
For iron horse so big and black
To steam along "Panhandle" track.
'Twas at this stage in history,
In eighteen sixty-six AD.
There came a Prussian into view
Working on a rail-road crew.
He brought some land from Aaron Hart,
The biggest holder in this part.
He founded then a station here,
We write, of course, of Nich'las Scherer.
Meanwhile folk from other shores,
Sturdy Germans with their mores
Built farms around on every side
And prospered much from skills applied.
New homes in 'town' did dot the scene
With picket fences, gardens green.
Business ventures here and there
Their services began to share
One was Lustik's Cigar Store,
Followed by this several more.
Schulte's Market handled meat
And Austgen's Store a candy treat.
The creamery the Grimmers ran,
A tavern had the Shubert clan.
Of early town-folk here's a few,
The Thiels, the Steuers, Trinens too.
Rohrmans, Stephens, Swets and Risch
And some others if you wish.

Add Cope and Schafer to this group
That comprised the village 'loop'.
Others lived on farms apart,
Like John Seberger for a start.
Who rode to Winnamac by steed
To get a forty acre deed.
Not long after Mister Scherer
Some more families settled here.
They were Redars, Kuhns and these,
Homans, Killings and to please...
Schiesslers, Millers, Bohnes and
The Reiplingers...we understand
Hilbrichs, Kaisers and still more,
Peifer' name adds to the lore.
There were Spindlers, Schweitzers, who
Arrived and settled early too.
Time marched on as just before
To eighteen seventy plus four,
When local folks were then to found
St. Michael's Church on highest ground
First to tend the parish flock
Was Reverend Kueng in cleric's frock.
Then Father Berg appeared to lead,
For fifty years he did indeed.
In those days of rig and horse,
There was a Blacksmith Shop, of course.
Owned by Thiels on native sod,
It was a place where mares were shod.
Still time was weaving many threads,
The first world war left tattered shreds.
Some youths of Schererville did go
To meet the challenge of the foe.
Soon after horse-less carriage made,
New inroads for fun and trade.
The Lincoln Highway of renown,
Cut a swath right through the town.
All the while this fair domain
Had tempo of a soft refrain.
Good town marshals kept the peace,
Their vigilance knew no surcease.
The first was Steuer after than
Peter Cope came up to bat.
Then for many years with verve,
Fine Pete Redar was to serve.
'Til the present time when Phil,
Mr. Spivak fills the bill.
He wears the star upon his chest
And wears it well in every test.
Back again to yester-year
For continuity that's clear.
Then '41', a new paved route,
Crossed Highway 30 and no doubt
Spelled fame to Teibels at this site,
Where chicken dinners brought delight.
And lo, as all these years we trace,
There was in town a meeting place...
At big Gard's Store, the gen'ral kind,
They stocked all one hoped to find.
From button shoes to jelly beans
And stereopticans with scenes.
Through these times and quite adept,
Fire-fighters safety kept.
From nineteen fourteen it does show,
The force assuredly did grow.
Fred Henderlong was the first chief,
A few we'll name to keep it brief.



L.C. Meyer facts relate,
 Was too a chief at early date.
 Bill Bohney's name add to this list
 Whose services should not be missed.
 Then C.J. Schafer was to reign,
 The volunteers were his to train.
 Our fire-men still give their all
 At Norbert Fortener's beck and call.
 A backward glance again in life,
 When World War II brought with it strife.
 And tears were shed for boys afar
 As some were lost 'neath foreign star.
 Then peace prevailed and life wore on,
 A new decade came with the dawn.
 The post-war era soon began
 And spread out wide like open fan.
 New subdivisions then were seen,
 The village did begin to preen.
 A few industries changed the scope,
 This town with progress did elope.
 Then more churches filled the need,
 Of Protestants to fit each creed.
 Business places soon increased,
 Property was bought and leased.
 Sauzer's Kiddie-land brought lots
 Of fun to oldsters and to tots.
 Scherwood Club amused the teen
 And furnished entertainment keen.
 Then a place for homeless boys,
 One to guarantee them joys,
 Was build on Jackson Highway site,
 Of Hoosier Town we do so write.
 This fine result from one man's dream,
 Reverend Campagna's it does seem.
 For years on end the public school
 Taught grammar and the golden rule.
 In later days it burst its seams,
 And up went added walls and beams.
 Renamed for all his years of aid,
 Joe Homan School it then was made.
 Then like Topsy, 'it just growed',
 Still too small a survey showed.
 So Peifer SChool was built indeed
 To fill a very urgent need.
 School board members have for years,
 Been guardians of our little 'dears',
 Serving now in present tense,
 There is active Robert Gentz.
 Also showing good intent,
 Alfred Peifer...President.
 Supported too by Doctor Grove,
 For excellence they always strove.
 Other servants at this date,
 Town Board members let us state.
 Ralph McColly, Michael Kuhn...
 Joseph Zimmer and in tune,
 John J. Dreesen and one more,
 R. Teegarden...head of corps.
 Another well-known name we hail,
 The overseer of the mail.
 Is Mary Kaiser, whom we toast
 As long time keeper of the 'post'.
 Let's tip our hats to a fine gent,
 A pillar in the scout movement.
 An accolade to C.P. Smith,
 Should be given and forth-with.

A word of honor too let's note,
 For senior citizens on whom we dote.
 To name the 'over 80 set',
 Is such a pleasure, you can bet.
 Susan Govert's one to state,
 Mary Doctor does so rate.
 Of Carrie Stephen we must write
 And Susan Grimmer...a delight.
 These names above then do complete,
 This small society...'elite'.
 Here civic minded folks abide,
 One couldn't name all if he tried.
 A bit of praise deserves each one,
 For time or space it can't be done.
 Quickly we will just include
 These two men of present mood.
 Earl Kaeser sees to streets, we know
 And also guards the H2O.
 The filtration plant is run
 By Robert Buchler, native son.
 We're to the present in our rhyme,
 Emerging on an era prime.
 We've eclipsed time and run a course,
 From covered wagon days and horse.
 To now when jets roar in the sky
 And astronauts go soaring by.
 We've still a village any case,
 Basking in a quiet grace.
 Yet not idle but abreast,
 Pushing forward and with zest.
 We've identify...and yet
 Are meshed into the Calumet.
 Our 'Down County' is a door
 That opens wide to the lake-shore,
 Where mighty open hearths do pour
 Mankind's wares from molten ore.
 Back o'er this threshold one can find
 Rural charms of every kind...
 One hundred years we have reviewed,
 Searched each era for a mood.
 Olden data high is heaped,
 With nostalgia we are steeped.

 But to the future let us glance,
 May the coming years enhance
 The best these decades leave behind
 As wheels of progress surely grind.
 We life out cup to future bright,
 For Schererville and hope it might
 Grow steadily and yet preserve
 Its dignity...and fine reserve.
 Onward, forward, hands entwined
 With good intent so well defined.
 We strive to leave a legacy
 For Twenty sixty-six A.D.
 So generations yet unknown
 Can reap the fruits of seeds now sown.
 Meantime there is cause we state
 For one and all to celebrate.
 Ring it out both loud and clear
 That centennial days are here.
 For there's joy and jubilation
 At these 'CROSS-ROADS OF THE NATION'!



A SEQUEL TO THE STORY OF SCHERERVILLE

1966 - 1991

Twenty-five years have gone by in time
Since last we wrote of our village in rhyme,
So many changes, the demise of the rails,
No more to the 'Pennsy' the men with their pails....
New industries flourish, business does grow,
Very much progress does Schererville show,
New subdivisions do now dot the scenes,
Where once grew the corn, potato and beans....
Many old faces have left and we mourn,
Their passing has made us all very forlorn,
But new generations are filling the town,
To help erase sorrow and take away frown....
Now to our schools that really show change,
They've grown and expanded in a great range,
New schools have been added to the terrain,
To help educate and valor maintain....
There's James Watson School on the south-side,
The Michael J. Grimmer, a middle school pride,
Homan is growing by leaps and bounds,
Filled with the laughter of children's gay sounds....
Peifer's enlarged to an edifice fine,
Hammond Baptist's name can be seen on a sign,
St. Michael's School has become large,
Good teachers in town are taking good charge....
Let's write of the councilmen in at this date,
Wes Shake, Victor Banter, Larry Tucker to state,

Also two others are town fathers too,
Tom Kouros, John Fladeland the rest of the crew....
Mr. Ron Bradley does manage the town,
Helping the village to gain more renown,
Another town member is Herman A. Parker,
Assistant to Bradley is his known marker....
John Novacich is the parks in charge man,
Glen Eberly rules in building and plan,
Michael L. Lush is Public Works engineer,
Superintendent J. Huet water treatment does
steer....
Clarence T. Kuhn is the village town clerk,
Mr. Steve Manich, engineer keeps things perk,
Many fine workers all help in their way,
For the place to perform its duties each day....
Let's unite of the police department division,
Dennis Zagrocki, chief who makes each decision,
And to our firemen ever on call,
Bo Kaeser is chief and we're grateful to all....
What can one say to the passing of time,
As our village expands and comes into its prime,
We hope that a part of its once rural faze
Will linger awhile in a nostalgic haze....

But forward we go, progress must have its say,
Let us all welcome new things on their way,
We can join hands all over the town,
The natives, new-comers from uptown and
down....
Then make the next quarter of century great,
By doing our parts at this historical date,
Here's to the future, accolades to the past,
May Schererville's dream ever flourish and last!

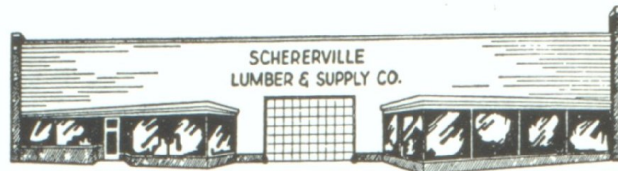
By

Virginia Borman-Grimmer



TELEPHONE
DYER 2261

SCHERERVILLE LUMBER AND SUPPLY CO.



LUMBER, MILLWORK, BUILDING MATERIAL, COAL, HARDWARE AND PAINT

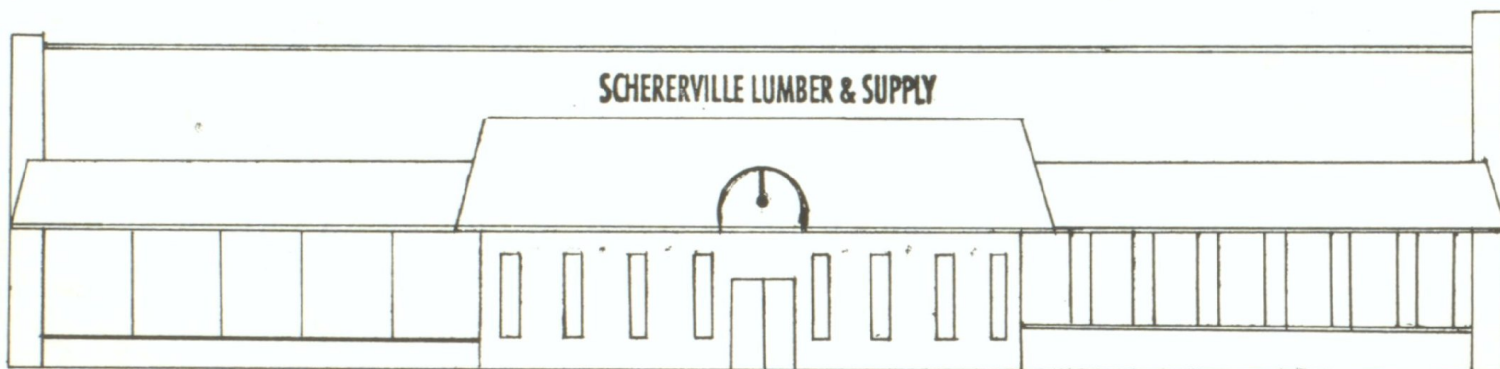
ON U. S. RTE. 30
SCHERERVILLE
INDIANA

1950

Incorporated on April 5, 1950, constructed and open for business that same year, Schererville Lumber and Supply, Inc. has become a landmark Schererville business over the past forty-three years.

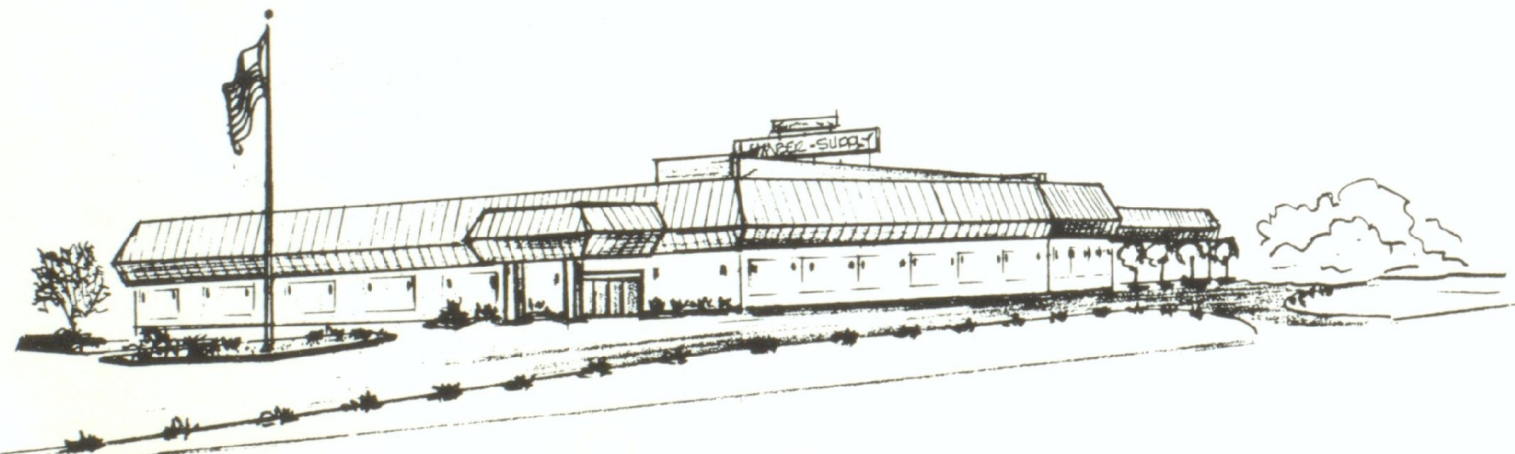
Located on fifteen acres on the southwest corner at the intersection of Route 30 and Cline Avenue, Schererville Lumber was built at a time when the Town of Schererville was still considered "rural", far south of the then bustling cities of East Chicago, Hammond and Gary, and of the rapidly growing towns of Munster, Highland and Griffith.

The history, or story, of Schererville Lumber is really the story of George M. Fishtorn, and how it is still possible that a single person filled with determination, foresight and a genuine concern for the welfare of employees and community can inspire and work with others to build and sustain a business which still reflects those ideals today.



1970

Today, Schererville Lumber has been extensively remodeled and expanded to reflect it's pride in being a long time member of the Schererville Community and to demonstrate it's faith in the present and in the future of Schererville.



1990

View from Rt. 30 & Cline Ave.

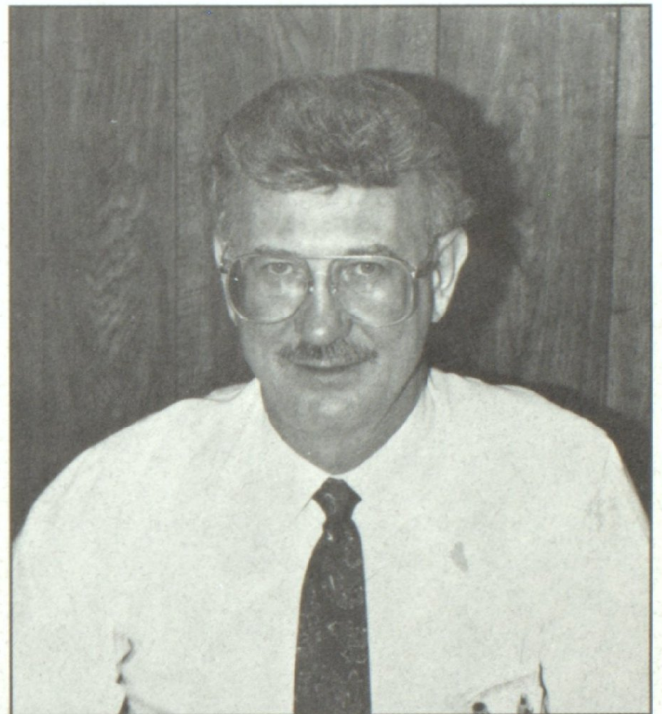
OVER 40 YEARS OF QUALITY SERVICE AND QUALITY PRODUCTS.

STRACK & VAN TIL



Strack & Van Til came to the Northwest corner of Rts. 30 & 41 in Schererville in 1969 and has grown with the community from the original 23,000 square feet, to the modern full service, over 70,000 square foot facility shopped by so many residents today.

John Schoon was the first store manager at Strack and Van Til. He was responsible for implementing the company's policy of keeping prices low, making the store environment pleasant to shop, and treating customers with courtesy and respect. John was promoted to head buyer with Strack and Van Til in 1980.



Bob Trujillo is the current store manager, having begun his career with Strack and Van Til at the age of 16. He and his family have been Schererville residents for 20 years where Bob is currently active in several civic activities.

Schererville Historical Society



Current Schererville Historical Society Members - Front Row: Dave Andrews (Treasurer), Rich Jonas (Vice President), Heidi Clark Zima (Secretary), Glen Eberly (Honorary Member), Art Schweitzer (President). **Second Row:** Jim Zima, Marion Thiel, Jim Thiel, Ron Fetsch, Paulette Stark (Corresponding Secretary), Dick Wagner, Arlene Wagner, Pat Klamo, Rich Laudeman, Mary Andrews, Cindy Leighty, Eleanor Krame, Dick Krame, Doris Schweitzer, Gerry Schulte, Vern Schulte and Wilma Schulte. **Not pictured are:** Robert & Cecilia Adley, Beverly Fetsch, Betty Jonas, Fred and Peggy Jones, Andrew Klamo, Nancy Laudeman, Leonard and Joan Malinowski, Bill and Mary Marsh, Bill McCormack, Bill and Jan Penman, Richard Schafer, Gerry and Mary Scheub, Ted Stark, Jim Stephen, Vic Banter, George Bergner, Paul Deakin, Bob & Jane Florkiewicz, Dale Heacock, Melvin Kuhn, James Mulcahey, Claybourne Ridgely, Bob Teibel, Jim Watt.

Schererville History is interesting! You can learn more about our Town by joining the Historical Society. Interested parties may contact the Schererville Historical Society at P.O. Box 333, Schererville, IN 46375.

Schererville's Official Flag



Schererville's Official Flag was designed by Mary Andrews and her daughter Margaret in the late 1970's while participating in a Flag Designing Contest, and was subsequently adopted as the Official Flag of Schererville.